

Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council

Meeting Communique

9 December 2016

The Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council convened its last meeting for 2016 on 9 December 2016. The meeting included a focus on the response to the Public Service Commission's report, *Queensland Mental Health Commission effectiveness review* (the final report).

The meeting was followed by the annual morning tea event at the Queensland Terrace, State Library of Queensland to acknowledge the Commission's stakeholders for their support in reforming the mental health and alcohol and other drug systems.

Review of the *Queensland Mental Health Commission*

Council was advised that the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, the Honourable Cameron Dick MP provided a copy of the Public Service Commission's *Queensland Mental Health Commission effectiveness review* to the Mental Health Commissioner on 24 November 2016, with the intention that it be published on the Queensland Health website in the near future.

The Minister noted that the review findings were positive in respect of the Commission's performance in providing a strong foundation for the future. He invited the Mental Health Commissioner to implement or address the recommendations as appropriate, to support the Commission's performance of its statutory functions. Council endorsed the Commissioner's proposed action in [response](#) to the 13 recommendations of the review.

A review of the effectiveness of the Act has now commenced as required by the Act. Queensland Health is leading this review. Council supported the proposal of the Commissioner to bring together all previous suggestions for amendments to the Act, noting that some proposals may be outside the scope of the review.

Other issues discussed

- 1. Council welcomes the continued Commonwealth investment in a national multicultural mental health program** — Council looks forward to the advancing of a future national multicultural mental health program that provides strategic and system based support to inform national, state and territory policy and investment decisions around multicultural mental health. The decision is consistent with the position the Mental Health Commissioners noted in their [Communique](#) of March 2016.

The three options for future arrangements for multicultural mental health are outlined in the review undertaken by Mental Health Australia and can be found on pages 9 and 10 of their

report entitled '[Mental Health in Multicultural Australia Project Recommendations for Future Directions Report – March 2016](#)'. Council looks forward to further information about the proposed targeted tender process.

- 2. Parliamentary enquiry on National Disability Insurance Scheme**—Council continues to voice its concern for the need for continued support for people with mental health issues during the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Two issues of particular concern are the impact on people who will not be eligible for a package and the impact on support for families and carers. The Council agreed that any changes to the upcoming board of the NDIS needs to be inclusive of people with lived experience of disability and/or being a carer of someone with a disability.

The recently announced Parliamentary Inquiry into the provision of services under the NDIS for people with a psychosocial disability related to a mental health condition is welcomed by Council. Council noted that submissions close on 27 February 2017 and that the Commission is planning to provide a submission. Read more about the [Inquiry](#).

- 3. Suicide data research**—Council were pleased to note that the *Suicide in Queensland 2011-13* report includes data by Hospital and Health Services and Primary Health Network regions for the first time. This analysis is in response to the Mental Health Commission's request to the Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention (AISRAP) to develop region specific data. Council endorsed the position that data must be more accessible and useful for services and communities to drive local responses to suicide prevention activities.
- 4. SOS interactive suicide awareness forum**—Council commended Kerrie Keepa on the success of the recent SOS FAST 'One in Four' Hypothetical forum held on 24 November 2016 at the Redlands Performing Arts Centre. The event included a panel of experts that included lived experience and leading minds in mental health, research and community services. The event was supported by ConNetica and Arafmi.

Annual Council stakeholder morning tea

Following the Council meeting, Council members attended the annual morning tea stakeholder event hosted by the Commission and attended by stakeholders from across the community, government and non-government sectors.

The Commissioner formally acknowledged a number of stakeholders and the Council members for their contribution to the work and achievements of the Commission.

Guests at the morning tea were entertained by the School of hard knocks 'Absolutely Everybody' Choir, conducted by Ms Melissa Gill.



Left to Right: Jeremy Audas, Etienne Roux, Sam Wild, Mark Wenitong, David Kavanagh, Commissioner, Janice Crosbie, Jan Kealton, Hamza Vayani, Martina McGrath and Kerrie Keepa

Next meeting

The first meeting for Council in 2017 will be on Friday, 17 February 2017 and will include a focus on services available to families that are involved in coronial inquests.

For any enquiries relating to this communique please contact the Council Secretariat by email at Council@qmhc.qld.gov.au.