

Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council

Meeting Communique

19 August 2016

The Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council met in Brisbane on Friday, 19 August 2016. The meeting focused on governance training for all members and the proposed review of the *Queensland Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Strategic Plan 2014-2019* in 2017.

Council Governance

The Australian Institute of Company Directors facilitated a workshop on governance training for Council members. The interactive workshop provided members with a greater understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the Council, as well as a conceptual understanding of the elements required for a productive, high performing and credible Advisory Council.

The workshop discussions focused on:

- Understanding how the Council can be effective and measure its own performance.
- Approaches that will best support the Commission to improve the mental health and wellbeing of Queenslanders.
- Being mindful of conflict of interest and how it can be managed.
- Understanding that members bring informed perspectives, but do not represent specific interest groups.

Review of the *Queensland Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Strategic Plan 2014-2019*

Council noted that a review of the [Queensland Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Strategic Plan 2014-2019](#) and associated action plans has been agreed with the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, the Honourable Cameron Dick MP.

The review will be overseen by a reference group with representatives from key stakeholder groups and Queensland Government agencies.

The Council members look forward to being proactively involved, and noted that the Commission will undertake the review from February to August 2017, that will involve:

- conducting an environmental scan to identify changes in the policy and service delivery landscape at state, national and international levels;
- publishing a series of position papers on specific topics and invite submissions; and
- convening a series of forums across Queensland with a wide-range of stakeholders. The forum invitees will include people with lived experience of mental illness, problematic alcohol and other drug use, their families, friends and carers; peak organisations; service providers; and Queensland Government agencies.

It is expected that the refreshed Strategic Plan will be released in October 2017.

Other issues discussed

1. **Understanding lived experience** – The Council agreed that many people will be impacted in different ways by mental illness, suicide, alcohol and other drugs. Language is evolving and words used can mean various things to different people. Council members agreed that whatever terms are used (including consumer, service user, patient, and expert through lived experience), that personal experience must be included and respected at all levels of policy and practice. The focus should be on respecting the experiences of those impacted rather than on precise definitions.
2. **The Rural and Remote Mental Health and Wellbeing Action Plan** is expected to be publicly released on 23 August 2016. The Council were advised that the Commission is proposing to convene a Roundtable in a rural and remote community in early 2017 to provide ongoing opportunities for input.
3. **Support for improved social and emotional wellbeing** – Council noted that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social and Emotional Wellbeing Action Plan is planned for public release later in 2016. Council members, Dr Mark Wenitong and Ms Samantha Wild were acknowledged for providing forewords for the Action Plan.
4. **The Commission's submission to the review of the Health Ombudsman**, including the complaints managements system and the broader rights protection agenda, will be provided at the next meeting as well as an update on the review.
5. **A review of the statute of limitations** – the review will consider removing time limitations for victims of child sexual abuse from seeking damages. The Council will be consulted on the Commission's submission to the [Government's review of the Statute of Limitations](#) at the next meeting.

Emerging risks to Queensland Reforms

Members identified and discussed a few other important issues for consideration:

- Public debate about youth detention in the Northern Territory and Queensland, and potential for acknowledgement of trauma informed care across all policy development and service delivery.
- The extent to which countering violent extremism and radicalisation should be considered in the early intervention agenda.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be on Friday, 21 October 2016. The meeting agenda will include:

- Evaluation of the policy to lock wards in Queensland's public mental health facilities.
- Process to review the *Queensland Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Strategic Plan 2014-2019*.
- The Commission's submission to the Health Ombudsman review, including issues arising.

For any enquiries relating to the Communique please contact the Council Secretariat:

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