



Queensland
**Mental Health and Drug
Advisory Council**

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Meeting Communique

18 May 2018

The Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council convened its second ordinary meeting for the year on Friday, 18 May 2018. The meeting was chaired by the newly appointed Deputy Chair, Ms Gabrielle Vilic.

The agenda for the meeting was primarily focused on the role and function of the Council; the [Mental Health and Wellbeing Capacity Building Project](#); and the renewal of the [Queensland Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Strategic Plan 2014-2019](#).

Stakeholder morning tea

A morning tea with the local community stakeholders was held prior to the commencement of the Council meeting at the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC).

The Mental Health Commissioner, Mr Ivan Frkovic used this opportunity to introduce the [new Deputy Chair and members](#) and to provide invited guests with an update on the development of the renewed Strategic Plan.

Role and function of the Council

A large portion of the meeting was dedicated to understanding the role and function of the Council, its relationship to the Commission, and how the Council contributes to the Commission's work.

Council members made some suggestions as to how the Council can better contribute to the Commission's work, and the Commissioner also flagged the need for an in-depth discussion about the Commission's establishing legislation—the *Queensland Mental Health Commission Act 2013*—to consider whether any changes may be necessary.

The group also endorsed a revised [Terms of Reference for the Council](#).

Renewal of the Queensland Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Strategic Plan 2014–2019

The Commission provided an update on the progress being made towards the development of the renewed Strategic Plan; noting the Commission's work in testing and refining the strategic directions and priorities.

The Council noted since its last meeting, the Commissioner has met with senior officers from Queensland Health, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and Queensland Treasury; with each of the partners providing in-principle support for the proposed approach.

The Council also acknowledged that the Strategic Steering Group (SSG) has been established, which comprises Queensland Government agencies, to lead and support the finalisation of the renewed Strategic Plan for State Government approval. The Group is planning to meet for the second time in late June.

In addition to the above formal consultation processes, the Commission continues to bring together key stakeholder groups to present the Commission's approach to renewing the Strategic Plan and seek feedback on the proposed strategic directions.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Capacity Building

The Council welcomed the attendance of guest speaker, Mr Tony Coggins, Lead Associate, from Population Mental Health Maudsley International

Mr Coggins was invited to provide an update on the cross sectoral capacity building in mental health and wellbeing, including the work occurring through the Commission in partnership with Maudsley International with the Wheel of Wellbeing (WoW) awareness and skills training for key sectors.

Maudsley International has been working in partnership with the Commission to develop and implement a population mental health and wellbeing program focused around building the capacity of non-mental health sectors and organisations to promote mental wellbeing in communities.

The Council noted that in response to the growing cross sectoral interest and engagement with WoW, the Commission has also supported the expansion, quality and sustainability of WoW capacity across Queensland through a support service provided by Relationships Australia Queensland (RAQ). The members noted with interest some examples of how WoW is being used, including supporting mental wellbeing across school communities.

Other issues

1. Commission to host a State of the State Summit

The Council noted that the Commission is planning to host a 'State of the State' summit at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre in November 2018.

The event will bring various areas of the sector together to examine what is being done well and where greater focus is required in the areas of mental health, suicide prevention, and alcohol and other drugs. Key influencers, leaders and decision-makers; and people with lived experience will be invited to the Summit.

2. Collaboration with other jurisdictional Mental Health Commissions

The Commission continues to collaborate with other Mental Health Commissions across Australia, including the National Mental Health Commission. At the last Joint Commissioners meeting, it was agreed that Commissions could work together to provide joint submissions to National inquiries where relevant and beneficial. As a result, the Commissions have recently completed a joint submission to the Senate inquiry into *Accessibility and quality of mental health services in rural and remote Australia*.

Commissions are also currently working on a joint submission to the Senate inquiry into *the role of Commonwealth, state and territory Governments in addressing the high rates of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers*.

3. Recruitment process for the 2019 Council appointments

The Council noted that the Commission has been advised of the process for the February 2019 appointments, noting that Queensland Health will be leading an expression of interest process, and that members whose terms are set to expire on 23 February 2019, will be invited to reapply for another term.

Emerging issues

The Council discussed matters relating to access and provision of quality mental health inpatient services for people receiving care in adult inpatient mental health units; specifically, systemic issues with ongoing assessment processes and clinical therapeutic services.

The Council highlighted the need for mental health services to promote and maintain person-centred and values-based practice, which are consistent with contemporary mental health care.

During the discussion, it was acknowledged there has been a shift with services' operating hours being modified to support the work life balance of staff over the needs of people accessing care. The Council recognised the tensions for mental health services in balancing the needs of the workforce and service delivery requirements.

The Council also discussed the need for further work with the interface between mental health services and the criminal justice system.

The Council acknowledged the importance of ensuring the needs of people with lived experience remains the focus for service delivery; and that courageous leaders, values-based recruitment, and person-centred approaches are the stepping stones for the systemic change.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Council is planned for July 2018.

For any enquiries relating to the Communique please contact the Council Secretariat: Council@qmhc.qld.gov.au.

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