



# Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council

## Meeting Communique

16 March 2018

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The Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council convened its first meeting for 2018 on Friday, 16 March 2017. In the absence of an appointed Council Chair and Deputy Chair, Professor David Kavanagh was nominated by the Council members to chair the meeting.

The meeting agenda was primarily focused on the renewal of the [Queensland Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Strategic Plan 2014–2019](#).

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

The Council acknowledged the renewed plan aims to drive ongoing, whole-of-Government reform to improve the mental health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders with a particular focus on preventing and reducing the impact of mental illness, problematic alcohol and other drug use. The Plan provides a high-level vision with proposed strategic priorities, while specific targeted actions will be captured within an Implementation Plan to be developed after whole of Government agreement on the Strategic Plan.

The Council noted the proposed key elements of the strategic directions, vision and renewed guiding principles to underpin and drive ongoing whole-of-Government reform; and provided the following advice:

- The importance of measures and targets to gauge whether the plan is achieving its objectives.
- The early establishment and considered membership for the proposed steering group to effectively support the Commission in changing the current system and its competing priorities.
- The need for a cohesive seamless service integration system.
- The importance of engaging people with a lived experience in all aspects of service design, policy development and evaluation.
- The need to support and develop the peer workforce.
- That it can't be assumed that people have a home or a supportive environment to support their recovery.

The Council was advised that it is proposed that the implementation of the plan will be overseen by a cross-sectoral, cross agency Strategic Leadership Group. The Strategic Leadership Group is planned to include representation from Government, non-government, private sector, and community. The group's membership will also include a representative from the Council.

The Council noted the next steps include consultation with key stakeholders to finalise the plan, the establishment of governance arrangements, and the process to obtain Queensland Government approval.

The Council strongly supported the proposed strategy for the renewed Strategic Plan.

## Other issues

1. Research into the impact of stigma and discrimination relating to problematic alcohol and other drug use on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, families and individuals

The Council noted the Commission has engaged ACIL Allen Consulting to undertake research into the impact of negative stereotypes relating to problematic alcohol and other drug use on the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

A steering committee of key stakeholders and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will be established to oversee the work.

2. Alcohol and other drugs stigma and discrimination

The Council was advised that the report *Reducing stigma and discrimination for people experiencing problematic alcohol and other drug use* and the Commission's Options for Reform paper is expected to be published at the end of March 2018.

3. Update on the Regional Mental Health and Wellbeing Hubs

The Commissioner advised the Council that Griffith University had been engaged to conduct an evaluation of the [Regional Mental Health Wellbeing Hubs Initiative](#).

The Council noted that the overall purpose of the evaluation is to identify if the initiative is achieving its intended outcomes and what actions can be taken to strengthen and sustain the outcomes achieved to date.

4. National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF): [Queensland representatives](#)

The Council acknowledged the recent appointment of the new consumer and carer representatives to the NMHCCF and indicated an interest in meeting them. The new representatives will be invited to attend a future Council meeting as guests, noting one representative has since tendered her resignation.

## Next meeting

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

For any enquiries relating to the Communique please contact the Council Secretariat: [Council@qmhc.qld.gov.au](mailto:Council@qmhc.qld.gov.au).