

26 May 2017

Toowoomba has say on State mental health, drug and alcohol strategy

The Toowoomba community is being encouraged to comment on a high level plan which sets the direction of action to improve mental health and wellbeing.

The *Queensland Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Strategic Plan 2014-2019* is a whole of government plan first developed in 2014.

On **June 1 and 2**, the Queensland Mental Health Commission will host consultation forums on the Strategic Plan at **Toowoomba City Library, 155 Herries Street, Toowoomba City**.

Queensland Mental Health Commissioner Dr Lesley van Schoubroeck said: "It is important that the voices of all Queenslanders, from all regions and sectors, are heard during the renewal process.

"The needs and challenges of the diverse communities across the Darling Downs and south western Queensland are unique. That's why we need to hear directly from people in the region about what's working well, and where we need to focus greater attention.

"It is particularly important that we hear from people with lived experience of mental illness, problematic alcohol and other drug use and those affected by suicide, as well as their families, carers and supporters."

Dr van Schoubroeck noted that significant mental health reform, action and new services had been delivered across Queensland over the past three years.

"Improving mental health and wellbeing takes time and it is important that our efforts are continually reviewed to ensure they meet the changing needs of Queenslanders and align with recent reforms," she said.

Discussion papers on key topics are available online as part of the state-wide consultation process.

Registrations to attend the two Toowoomba forums are under 'Strategic plan renewal' on the Commission's website www.qmhc.qld.gov.au

Location	Date	Forum
Toowoomba	1 June 2017	Lived experience forum
	2 June 2017	Community forum

NOTE: Media will not be able to attend the forums, but interview of a QMHC officer may be available by contacting: Kate Southwell (07) 3033 0340 or 0409 275 385

