

JOINT MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSIONERS MEETING



Communique

4-5 April 2018



Pictured: Left to Right: Mr Ivan Frkovic, Queensland Mental Health Commission; **Dr Peggy Brown**, National Mental Health Commission; **Ms Jessica Martin**, Queensland Mental Health Commission; **Ms Catherine Lourey**, Mental Health Commission of New South Wales; **Dr Lynne Coulson Barr**, Mental Health Complaints Commissioner Victoria; **Mr Chris Burns**, South Australia Mental Health Commissioner. Absent Mr Tim Marney, Western Australian Mental Health Commission; Mr Kevin Allan, Office of the Health and Disability Commissioner, New Zealand

The Commission hosted a meeting on 4-5 April 2018 between the leaders of the Mental Health Commissions in Brisbane.

The two-day meeting provided an opportunity for the group to report on their current priorities, and discuss opportunities for collaboration.

Guest speakers

Ms Kerry Pennell, Strategy & Development Director and Mr Craig Hodges, National Programs Director, from Orygen – the National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health were invited to discuss with the group how Orygen's work program intersects and supports the outcomes under the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan, and to provide an update on other reform directions.

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership in Mental Health (NATSILMH) Chair, Mr Tom Brideson, and the Executive Officer, Mr Chris Holland were also invited to talk about the recent changes undertaken at NATSILMH, and to discuss the two publications released on the 15 March 2018 to mark the National Close the Gap Day – *Health in Culture - Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit)*

Declaration Implementation Guide (Implementation Guide) and the *Health in Culture – Policy Concordance*.

Common themes

The two common themes emerging from the discussions were key performance indicators and early years.

The Commissions provided an update on their respective work in promotion, prevention and early intervention; acknowledging intersecting issues and opportunities for collaboration.

The group also discussed the need for clear, meaningful and robust indicators to support the Commissions in measuring, monitoring and reporting progress in improving mental health and wellbeing.

The group discussed the benefits of supporting a conversation to talk more broadly and consider respective KPIs, and agreed to convening a preliminary meeting between the Commissions.

Mental Health Complaints Commissioner Sexual Safety Project and Report

One of Mental Health Complaints Commissioner's functions under the *Mental Health Act 2014* (Vic) is to identify, analyse and review quality and safety issues arising from complaints about public mental health services.

The Commissioner recently finalised a project to review how Victoria's public mental health system safeguards the sexual safety of people, particularly women, receiving treatment in acute mental health inpatient units.

The review drew on information from complaints and investigations, stakeholder consultations and a literature review.

The report: *The Right to be safe– ensuring sexual safety in acute mental health inpatients units: sexual safety report* was launched on 23 March 2018 and contains recommendations to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Chief Psychiatrist and to mental health services on actions that are required to ensure sexual safety for inpatients.

The group applauded Dr Lynne Coulson Barr and her office for conducting the investigations and for the outstanding report; noting safeguarding the sexual safety of people receiving treatment in acute mental health inpatient units is an issue that affects all jurisdictions.

Next meeting:

The group agreed to convene the next meeting in Adelaide in August to coincide with the 2018 TheMHS Conference.