



Queensland
**Mental Health and Drug
Advisory Council**

Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council Meeting Brisbane – 14 February 2020

COMMUNIQUE

The Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council (the Council) met in Brisbane on 14 February 2020. The meeting was attended by the Mental Health Commissioner and the Interim Executive Director, Queensland Mental Health Commission.

Meeting highlights

NOUS Group Monitoring and Evaluation Framework Presentation

The NOUS Group provided an overview of the proposed monitoring and evaluation framework for [Shifting minds: Queensland Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategic Plan 2018-2023 \(Shifting minds\)](#) and its subordinate plans. The framework provides an approach for measuring, monitoring and documenting the achievements against *Shifting minds* and related subordinate plans.

The NOUS Group consulted stakeholders including lived experience, community groups and the Strategic Leadership Group to develop the framework.

The Council highlighted the value of collecting data from lived experience to give both comprehensive and informed feedback and to influence a positive funding environment. It was noted that the formative and summative evaluation parts of this framework will go out to tender.

Human Rights and Restrictive Practices Presentation

Kylie Barnes, Director Policy and Program Delivery and Stefan Preissler, Program Manager, provided an update on restrictive practices – including locked wards, seclusion and mechanical restraint in Queensland.

The Council was provided with information on the newly established Queensland Human Rights Commission and new [Human Rights Act 2019](#) for Queensland which commenced in its entirety on 1 January 2020. Queensland is one of only three jurisdictions with statutory protection for human rights in Australia.

The members noted that the key relevant rights protections in the context of restrictive practices/locked wards are:

- Freedom of movement – a key right engaged by restricting movement of a person in facilities with locked doors and the use of physical or chemical restraints
- Humane treatment when deprived of liberty – for treatment with “humanity” and “respect”
- Right to protection from torture and cruel inhuman or degrading treatment
- Right to liberty and security of person

Council discussed restrictive practices, locked wards and the efficacy of the implementation of Safewards model of care in Queensland.

Advice was sought from the Council regarding priority reform directions and it was agreed to continue to monitor human rights and restrictive practices in Queensland.

Implementation update for the Shifting minds

An updated on the development of the *Shifting minds* was tabled.

The Council noted the progress being made towards the implementation of *Shifting minds* and its subordinate plans (that include [Every life: The Queensland Suicide Prevention Plan 2019-2029](#) and Queensland's renewed approach to alcohol and other drugs).

Every life cross-agency working group was been convened to seek feedback to support the establishment of the Queensland Suicide Prevention Network, and the develop robust and transparent monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes to support agencies with the implementation of their commitments under *Every life*.

The Council discussed progress on the development of a renewed alcohol and other drugs approach and acknowledged Councils' critical role in supporting the Commission with the targeted and public consultations.

The Council's ongoing support and advice was sought regarding the development of the plan in relation to the Commission's longer-term vision and approach.

Update on the development of the new Queensland Mental Health Peak Body

The Council was advised of the two temporary positions that have been established to support the development of a new mental health consumer peak for Queensland.

The Council offered their views on the focus for lived experience representation – acknowledging the need to include mental health, suicide prevention, alcohol and other drugs, families and carers.

Brisbane Community Event

The Council visited the Multiplex Queen's Wharf building site and attended a presentation on the new Multiplex mental health and wellbeing initiative given by Multiplex's Project Director – Dayne May, Workplace Health Safety and Environment Manager – Ryan Alexiou, Human Resources Manager, Chris Layton, and Senior Site Manager – Ian McKewin.

Multiplex recognises that larger building sites have the resources to effect change, and this initiative is inclusive of all staff and trades onsite. The internal program is run with the support of Mates in Construction and seeks to go beyond tick-box measures to support the mental health and wellbeing by; trialling of a five-day work week, training (150) staff in mental health first aid, financial advice, drug and alcohol intervention and rehabilitation and engagement of all levels of management in the initiative.

Implementation outcomes include; low rates of absenteeism and injuries, increased productivity across the five-day work week (including delivery of projects ahead of schedule), open dialogue and reduced level of stigma when discussing mental health and wellbeing, an increased willingness for staff to seek help, and critical risks being better controlled.

The Council discussed the quality of life based on a five-day work week and noted the positive outcomes for both staff and the safe delivery of projects.

Next meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on 1 May 2020. Questions relating to this communique should be addressed to the Council Secretariat at: council@qmhc.qld.gov.au.

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