

# Presentation to Community Legal Services Conference

Commissioner  
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# Acknowledgements

- *I acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Elders, past and present, on whose land we meet today*
- *I also acknowledge the people living with mental illness and substance misuse, their families and carers. We must remember that a helping hand, a listening ear or a word of kindness could make such a difference to their lives, in a society where they too often feel excluded.*

# Overview

- About the Commission
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse strategic plan
- Relevance to Community Legal Centre

# Who are we here for?

- People living with poor mental health and problematic substance use and low levels of personal wellbeing
  - All ages, regions, levels of education and socio economic backgrounds
  - Affected by natural disasters
  - Marginalised within our society
  - With poor physical health, disability, poverty and unemployment
  - Over-represented in the criminal justice system
  - Subject to widespread stigma and discrimination – negative inaccurate sometimes debilitating attitudes

# Our legislative base

- Queensland Mental Health Commission Act 2013
- Creates the Commission as an independent statutory agency reporting to Minister for Health Functions of the Commission
  - Functions of the Commission
    - Strategic Planning
    - Research, Review and Evaluation
    - Promotion, awareness
  - We are a policy agency, not a service delivery agency. This means we are an agent of change
- Creates a Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council

# We will measure our success by

- Actions in our Strategic Plan that are implemented
- Satisfaction with our performance among key stakeholders
- Our contribution to the collaborative capacity of the 'system' – the likelihood that contributors will continue to work together in the future.

# We will measure our collective success by

- Progress towards the achievement of outcomes agreed in the strategic plan that improve the lives of the people we are here for.
- *(The QMHC sees success coming through the achievements of others)*

# Our Strategic Plan – legislative base

- S34 – Relevant agencies must have regard to the strategic plan
- S35 – The CE of a HHS must take the strategic plan into account
- S49 – The Commission must consult with the Advisory Council before giving the Plan to the Minister



# Our Strategic Plan – key elements

- Vision
- Principles
- Outcomes
- Better pillars
  - Services
  - Promotion prevention and awareness
  - Transparency and accountability
  - Engagement
- Commitments to Action

# Our emerging vision

- A ~~mentally~~ healthy community where people living with mental illness or ~~substance misuse~~ problematic substance use ~~hope for~~ ~~expect~~ have a life with purpose and access to quality care focussed on wellness and recovery in a society free of stigma and discrimination

# Our emerging principles

- Diversity and respect
- Rights and dignity
- Person centred
- Quality of life
- Responsiveness
- Collaboration and integration
- Fair and accessible

# Our emerging outcomes

- More people in the population with **good mental health** and wellbeing
- More people with poor mental health and wellbeing having **better physical health** and living longer
- More people with poor mental illness or misusing alcohol and drugs having **a life with purpose**
- More people with poor mental illness or misusing alcohol and drugs having **a positive experience of their support, care and treatment**
- Fewer people experiencing **avoidable harm**
- Fewer people experiencing **stigma and discrimination** related to mental health issues

# Commitment to Action (eg)

- Develop an action plan to enable consumer, family and carers to become respected partners in the co-design of the system and their individual care.
- This must include elements like:
  - Access to and education about relevant information
  - Processes and structures to support participation in direction setting, planning and decision making
  - Information to understand NDIS
  - And so on

# What particular relevant to community legal centres?

- Review of Qld Mental Health Act 2000
- Improving understanding of international and national rights protection instruments
- Understanding other State legislation that impacts on our customer base
- Improving access to legal representation

# What is QMHC doing now?

- Workshops to better understand ‘good’ mental health legislation
- Locked wards research
- Assembling the facts and the views

# Facts and views about ...

- Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities
- Representation before MHRT
- Capacity vs mental health legislation
- Forms of advocacy



# Thank you ...

- And contact us at

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