

3 May 2017

Townsville to have say on State mental health, alcohol & drug strategies

Townsville and surrounding North Queensland communities are encouraged to comment on a high level plan that sets directions to improve the State's 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 **May 8 and 9**, the Queensland Mental Health Commission will host consultation forums to listen to the views of north Queensland at **Townsville RSL Stadium, Murray Lyons Crescent, Annandale**.

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 as part of the renewal process.

"The North Queensland has a diverse population and needs," Dr van Schoubroeck said.

"That's why it's important the views of residents in Townsville and surrounding areas, including the Burdekin, Charters Towers, Cardwell and Hinchinbrook have to be considered as we plan future initiatives and directions.

"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.

"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 are available for comment if people are unable to attend a consultation forum. Registrations to attend the two Townsville forums are under 'Strategic plan renewal' on the Commission's website www.qmhc.qld.gov.au

Location	Date	Forum
Townsville	8 May 2017	Lived experience forum
	9 May 2017	Community forum

