

Protocol supporting collaboration between
the
Queensland Mental Health Commission and
Queensland Hospital and Health Services

September 2016

1. Purpose

This protocol recognises that the Queensland Mental Health Commission and Queensland's 16 Hospital and Health Services¹ seek a collaborative relationship that reflects their complementary roles and mutual interests in the areas of mental health, substance misuse and suicide prevention in Queensland.

It also provides a framework for all parties to work together – collectively and on discrete pieces of work - to improve outcomes while pursuing their own functions and priorities.

2. Background

The Commission and the Hospital and Health Services are independent statutory bodies that have been established under separate legislative instruments within the health portfolio.

The Commission was established on 1 July 2013 under the *Queensland Mental Health Commission Act 2013* (the Act) to drive ongoing reform towards a more integrated, evidence-based, recovery oriented mental health, drug and alcohol system within Queensland (s1). The Commission is led by the Queensland Mental Health Commissioner and its functions include:

- develop a whole of government strategic plan in consultation with consumers, families, carers, government and non-government stakeholders
- undertake reviews, research and evaluations
- facilitate and promote awareness, prevention and early intervention activities
- support systemic governance within the mental health, alcohol and other drug sectors including supporting consumer, family and carer engagement.

The *Queensland Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Strategic Plan 2014-2019* was launched on 9 October 2014.

The Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council provides advice and makes recommendations to the Commission.

The Act requires:

- the Commission, in exercising its functions to engage and consult with Hospital and Health Boards (s11 (2)(d)); and
- the Chief Executives of Hospital and Health Services take the whole-of-government strategic plan into account when negotiating service agreements to the extent the agreements relate to the delivery of mental health and substance misuse services (s35).

The Hospital and Health Services are established under the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011* and each is locally controlled by a Hospital and Health Board (the 'Board'). A HHS's main function is to deliver

¹ Listing available via: www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/health-system/key-people/hhs-ceo-board/members/default.asp

hospital and other health services, teaching, research and other services outlined in their service agreement (s19). HHSs are also responsible for contributing to, and implementing, State wide service plans that apply to their HHS and undertake further service planning that aligns with the state-wide plans (s19).

Hospital and Health Boards have established two forums for statewide governance:

- a forum of Board Chairs, one of whom is elected to Chair that forum
- a forum of Chief Executives, one of whom has a mental health portfolio and one of whom has an Alcohol and Other Drugs portfolio.

3. Guiding principles

All HHSs have staff with significant professional experience working with people living with mental health and problematic alcohol and other drug use issues and people affected by suicide or experiencing suicidal ideation. This expertise should inform policy and planning at both the system and local levels.

The following principles will guide the implementation of this protocol and underpin activities undertaken jointly by the Commission and HHSs:

- all parties share a common vision for improving the system and services for Queenslanders with mental health or alcohol and other drug issues, including their families and carers
- all parties are committed to the success of the collaboration at both a state-wide and local level
- initiatives undertaken in collaboration between the parties align to strategic goals of the respective organisations
- initiatives undertaken in collaboration between the parties will yield impacts greater than either party could achieve individually.

4. Commitment

The parties to this protocol agree to:

- when working together, always seek to include people with lived experience of mental health and drug and alcohol issues, their families, and carers in policy design, decision-making, planning, implementation, service delivery and evaluation
- when working together, always seek to use their full range of professional expertise and experience available across Queensland
- operate in a manner that encourages broader partnership with individuals and organisations
- actively seek to avoid duplication of effort and to leverage respective resources, for example by using existing participation and engagement structures wherever possible
- communicate openly and share information, data, research, policies and reports with each other (except where this is prevented by legal obligations)

- contribute resources as agreed from time to time to support the effective implementation of specific collaborative projects or initiatives
- use these protocols as a reference point for each organisation, and to signal to the broader community our efforts to work together effectively to achieve positive outcomes for our communities
- address any challenges openly and constructively.

5. Resourcing and financial relationship

The protocol is not dependent upon any financial relationship (for example the commissioning of research or other initiatives to support change) that might be negotiated separately.

6. Duration or Term of Memorandum and Termination Process

The protocol commences when signed and are valid until it is reviewed every two years or terminated by mutual agreement of all parties.

7. Meetings and Reporting

The representative of Health Service Chief Executives' of Queensland Hospital and Health Services and the Queensland Mental Health Commissioner will meet quarterly to exchange relevant information. The Commissioner will provide summary reports to inform discussion at the Forum of Health Service Chief Executives'.

The Chair of the Queensland Hospital and Health Board Chairs' Forum and the Queensland Mental Health Commissioner will meet six monthly to exchange relevant information. The Commissioner will provide summary reports to inform discussion at the Hospital and Health Board Chairs' Forum.

8. Signatories

Lesley van Schooubroeck _____ *[Signature]* _____ *04/10/2016*
 Name Signature Date

Mental Health Commissioner
Queensland Mental Health Commission

Paul Woodhouse _____ *[Signature]* _____ *04/10/2016*
 Name Signature Date

Board Chair: North West Hospital and Health Board
Chair of Chairs' Forum

FIONNAGH DOUGAN _____ *[Signature]* _____ *22/9/16*
 Name Signature Date

Health Service Chief Executive: Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service
Representative of Chief Executives' Forum

SCHEDULE OF JOINT ACTIVITIES

The following joint activities are underway or planned between HHSs and the Commission, from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2016.

It includes only those forums and projects where the HHS is a formal partner. At this time, it does not include a range of projects funded by the Commission that are being undertaken with community groups in HHS regions.

Hospital and Health Service	Initiative	Time frames
Cairns and Hinterland	Suicide Risk Assessment and Management Project	To 30 June 2015
Torres and Cape	No initiatives to date	
Central Queensland	Commission stakeholder forum, Townsville	25 September 2013
	Commission stakeholder meetings, Emerald	2-3 April 2014
	Suicide Risk Assessment and Management Project	To 1 July 2015
Central West	Board Chair is on Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council	19 May 2016 to 23 February 2019
	Collaborated on consultation forum for development of the <i>Queensland Rural and remote mental health and wellbeing Action Plan 2016-18</i>	7-9 February 2016
Children's Health Queensland	EdLinQ planning workshop	24 March 2015
	Project to explore options to expand the Ed-LinQ program	On-going formal contract
	Early Action Reference Group to oversee implementation of the Early Action: Queensland Mental Health, Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention Action Plan 2015-17	On-going 2016
Darling Downs	Selection Panel, Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council	January 2016
	Telepsychiatry consumer feedback project	Project finalised in April 2016
	Commission to attend Board Community Engagement Luncheon with Mental Health Services	27 September 2016
Gold Coast	Commission and HHB consultation with Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs staff	26 February 2015
	Represented on the Queensland Alcohol and other Drugs Action Plan Reference Group	Mid 2015 to June 2017
	Suicide Risk Assessment and Management Project	Until 30 June 2015
Mackay	Collaborated on consultation forum for development of the <i>Queensland Rural and remote mental health and wellbeing Action Plan 2016-18</i>	11 February 2016
Metro North	Peri-natal infant mental health project	Project due to be finalised in June 2017
	Information for family and carers when an adverse event occurs	Project due to be finalised in late 2016
	Executive Director Mental Health – Member of Advisory Council's Consumer Family Carer Projects Reference Group	2015
	Suicide Risk Assessment and Management Project	To 30 June 2015
Metro South	Commission participates in quarterly mental health community engagement forums	On-going
	Commission participates in bi-monthly State-wide Consumer and Carer Workforce Network meeting	On-going
	Director Social Inclusion - Member Consumer, Family and Carer Project Reference Group	On-going
	Suicide Risk Assessment and Management Project	To 30 June 2015
North West	Mental Health Toolkit Reference Group	2015-2016
South West	Suicide prevention strengths-based community pilot	2016
Sunshine Coast	Suicide Risk Assessment and Management Project	To 30 June 2015

Townsville	Partner in the Townsville Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Project (Reference Group) – research component and set up	2015
	Townsville Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Local Alliance Project (Member)	November 2015 ongoing
West Moreton	No initiatives to date	
Wide Bay	Partner in World Suicide Prevention Day initiative	September 2015
	Community Partner on Wide Bay Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategic Collaborative	June 2016
	Suicide Risk Assessment and Management Project	To 30 June 2015

