

Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council

Meeting Communique

28 April 2016

Members of the Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council and Commission staff were briefed by the Public Service Commission on the forthcoming review into the effectiveness of the Queensland Mental Health Commission.

It is expected that the independent review of the Commission and the *Queensland Mental Health Commission Act 2013* (the Act) may identify ways to enhance the Commission's ability to meet the expectations of stakeholders.

The independent review stems from the requirement of the Act that:

- The Minister must arrange an independent review of the performance by the Commission of its functions within 3 years (ie 30 June 2016).

The Commission review team will be led by Dr Leanne Gill, Executive Director, Performance and Capability Development, Public Service Commission, with support from the Department of Health.

The review will be overseen by a steering committee that will include nominees from:

- Public Service Commission representative (Chair)
- Queensland Mental Health Commissioner
- Non-government sector
- Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Department of Health
- Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
- Department of Justice and Attorney-General
- Department of Housing and Public Works
- Queensland Police Service
- Department of Education and Training

The review will be inclusive in its approach, working with the Commission and its stakeholders. It is envisaged that the Public Service Commission will provide a report to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, the Honourable Cameron Dick MP by mid-June 2016.

Information about opportunities for input will be widely circulated in the coming weeks including through the Commission's social media channels.

A separate review of the Act will be initiated after this initial review has been finalised.

The Council members identified a number of issues that they believe need to be considered. These issues include:

- Independence of the Commission
- Commission's capacity to meet the wider community's expectations
- Commission's role in advocacy particularly in relation to complex matters

The review team will meet with members of the Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council to seek their independent perspective on the effectiveness of the Commission on 18 May 2016.

Other issues discussed

Members were provided with an update on the status for the appointments of the Council Chair and members. Council were advised that the appointments are in the process of being finalised.

The Council voiced their concern about the delays in the process and the impact of not having a full Council since February 2016.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Council has been tentatively scheduled for 17 June 2016, subject to consultation with the incoming Chair and members.

For any enquiries relating to the Communique please contact the Council Secretariat: Council@gmhc.qld.gov.au