



Mental Health, Wellbeing, and Alcohol and Other Drugs Ministerial Advisory Panel – Communique Meeting 8 October 2024

This communique provides all stakeholders with information and outcomes from the meeting of the Mental Health, Wellbeing, and Alcohol and Other Drugs Ministerial Advisory Panel (MAP) held on 8 October 2024.

The MAP provides direct feedback to the Minister for Health; Mental Health (Minister) about system performance and reform progress. This advice contributes to the delivery of a system that adopts a person and family-centred approach and encapsulates whole of system priorities. It also includes the transition to more community-based services that provide prevention, earlier intervention, and diversion away from acute in-patient services to achieve better outcomes for individuals, families, and the Western Australian community. The MAP is also the forum through which the Minister provides updates to the mental health and alcohol and other drugs sectors on strategic priorities.

Minister's Update

The Minister provided members with a brief update on several priority initiatives, including an update on the development of the Western Australian Eating Disorders Framework, noting that public consultation has recently concluded. The Minister advised members that consultation will begin shortly to inform the development of the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy 2025-2030, and that a discussion paper will be released to support this. The Minister also noted that Next Step Drug and Alcohol Services will transition to East Metropolitan Health Service by the end of 2024, and the Mid-year Financial Projections Statement is approaching.

Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Independent Governance Review

An update was provided to members on the outcomes of the Independent Governance Review (IGR), noting a phased approach to implementation is in progress. This Minister highlighted the establishment of a dedicated Office of Alcohol and Other Drugs within the Mental Health Commission (Commission) on 1 July 2024 to strengthen governance, strategy, policy and intergovernmental and sector relationships to accelerate and sustain action on alcohol and other drugs. Members noted that the establishment of the Lived Experience Advisory Group is in progress. The Minister advised that an evaluation of the governance groups will be carried out after around 12 months of operation. Members provided advice to help shape a planned and tailored approach to communication on IGR progress to the sector.

Infant, Child and Adolescent (ICA) Transformation Program

Members received an update on the ICA Transformation Program, and received feedback arising from a newly established working group which will focus on ensuring a transparent and coordinated approach to communicating progress. Members highlighted the importance of ensuring consumers, families and clinicians were informed of service changes as a priority. The Commission will update the existing ICA webpage and continue to explore a range of communication mechanisms.

Paediatrics and Alcohol and Other Drug Use

The Commission has been tasked with exploring developmentally appropriate alcohol and other drug responses, programs and services for children under 12 years of age. Acknowledging the limitations related to data for this cohort, and the impact of stigma and discrimination, members recommended consideration of localised case studies to support the identification of specific needs. Members also highlighted the importance of consulting across agencies. A discussion paper will be developed to support continued discussions within the MAP, facilitating collective advice from members to the Minister on this matter.

Power and Power Imbalance Exercise

Following on from the previous meeting, members discussed strategies to create an equitable environment where all members are able to contribute effectively.

Joint Leadership Group Update

Members noted a brief update from the Joint Leadership Group meeting on [8 August 2024](#).

The next MAP meeting is scheduled for 3 December 2024.

You may distribute this Communique to your wider networks. Communiqués and other relevant documents for the other governance groups are available on the [Mental Health Commission's website](#).