

Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Clinical Advisory Group Communique

5 August 2025

The Clinical Advisory Group (CAG) supports the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Joint Leadership Group (JLG) by providing contemporary expert advice on clinical matters, inclusive of both public and community settings. The CAG strives to ensure that their contributions ensure the delivery of an integrated, recovery-oriented system that encapsulates whole-of-system priorities, including transitioning to more community-based services that provide prevention, earlier intervention, and diversion away from acute in-patient services.

This Communique provides a summary of the key items tabled at the CAG meeting for the purposes of providing advice to the JLG.

Service-level Outcome Measurement Framework

The CAG was invited to provide advice on an appropriate approach to developing person-centred service-level outcomes, linked to the Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Outcomes Measurement Framework.

A summary of key issues discussed by members, which informs advice to the JLG includes:

- The differences between satisfaction measures and outcomes measures, and the importance of accounting for comorbidities, including physical and mental health.
- Alignment of outcomes to an individual's personal goals and objectives relating to accessing the service.
- Consideration of access barriers when measuring reasons why individuals do or do not attend a service (for example, opening hours).
- The challenges in attributing cause and effect to a specific intervention when people may be engaged in multiple services.
- The importance of also measuring staff outcomes, given a well-trained, supported and satisfied workforce is likely to correlate with positive consumer outcomes.
- The importance of appropriate measurement tools and methods to obtain the most accurate data possible in real time.

Governance Review

Members were advised that a review of the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs governance structures has commenced, aligned to best practice principles for public sector governance, including group function, governance and committee effectiveness. Members will be invited to provide feedback to contribute to this review.

Older Adults Model of Service

Members were informed that development of the Older Adults Model of Service, led by WA Country Health Service (WACHS), is nearing completion and draft will be presented to CAG for feedback.

The next CAG meeting is scheduled for 4 November 2025.