



# Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Joint Leadership Group

## Communique – Meeting 11 December 2025

The ninth meeting of the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Joint Leadership Group (JLG) was held on 11 December 2025. This Communique provides stakeholders with information and outcomes from the meeting.

The JLG provides high level, system-wide, collaborative decision-making and oversight, to deliver a system that adopts a person and family-centred approach and encapsulates whole of system priorities. This includes the transition to more community-based services that provide prevention and earlier intervention, and diversion away from acute in-patient services. The JLG is accountable for the delivery of key reform priorities including those outlined in the overarching system-wide Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy (MHAOD Strategy) (when completed) in alignment with the Outcome Measurement Framework (when completed).

### Neurodiversity

Members acknowledged the current context and challenges in relation to neurodiversity within public mental health settings, and endorsed the following priority actions:

- A whole of health approach to education and training for mental health staff to upskill staff and provide evidence-based interventions consistent with neurodiverse consumer needs across all age groups.
- The establishment of early intervention, case planning and ongoing care pathways for young people (aged 16-24 years) with mental illness and co-occurring complexities, including neurodiversity.
- The development of a policy position on neurodiverse-affirming care, including assessment and diagnosis.

Members agreed to seek advice from the Clinical Advisory Group (CAG) and Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) regarding key considerations associated with the implementation of the agreed priority areas to inform planning and future decision making.

### Workforce – Aboriginal Mental Health Worker (AMHW) Guidelines

Members endorsed publication of the AMHW Guidelines. The guidelines offer structured guidance, practical insights and evidence-informed recommendations to support Health Service Providers in effectively engaging, developing and sustaining a culturally safe AMHW workforce.

### Governance Review

Members noted the outcomes from the performance review of the JLG and Joint Executive Directors Group (JED), conducted in accordance with the Terms of Reference. The review considered the function and operations of the groups against recognised best-practice principles. Members endorsed several recommendations aimed at strengthening functional and operational effectiveness, noting that an emphasis on process performance is expected and appropriate given that the governance structure is relatively new.

### Other items of note

Members received updates on the recent meetings of the JED, CAG and LEAG. This included advice from CAG and LEAG on the implementation of the JLG *Statement of Commitment to Organisational Culture Change through Lived Experience Inclusion Plans*, and advice from CAG on implementation of the Community Treatment Support and Emergency Services Reform project (CTSER)

A Project Watching Brief was also provided to the JLG to note key updates and upcoming milestones of all annual workplan items:

- Implementation of the Eating Disorders Framework.
- Development of a collaborative approach to commissioning services.
- Delivery of the WA Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2025-2030.
- Planning and delivery of Alcohol and Other Drugs initiatives.
- Independent Governance Review System-Wide Phased Change Plan.
- Collective responsibility to support compliance of the *Alcohol and Other Drugs Act 1974*.

You may distribute this Communique to your wider networks. Communiques and other relevant documents for the JLG, CAG and LEAG are available on the [Mental Health Commission website](#).



- Addressing service gaps in under 17-year-old cohorts.
- Suicide Prevention.
- Oversight of Community Treatment, Support and Emergency Response.
- Infrastructure to support Mental Health projects.
- Progress against the Outcome Measurements Framework.
- *Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) Act 2023*.
- Collective responsibility to support compliance of the *Alcohol and Other Drugs Act 1974*.

Members also noted the [Productivity Commission's Final Report on the review of the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement](#).