

Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Joint Leadership Group Communique – Meeting 6 March 2025

The sixth meeting of the Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Joint Leadership Group (JLG) was held on Thursday, 6 March 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 2025-2030 (when completed) in alignment with the Outcome Measurement Framework (when completed).

WA Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2025-2030

Members were provided with an update on the consultation process undertaken for the development of the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2025-2030, along with an overview of the next steps to finalise the Strategy.

Joint Leadership Group Annual Workplan 2024-25

Members endorsed the revised Annual Workplan, which includes additional planned actions for the remainder of the financial year. Members noted that new or additional priorities may be identified and incorporated to support the implementation of the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2025-2030 once it has been finalised.

Mental Health Act 2014 - Next Steps for the Compliance Action Plan (CAP)

Members discussed the Mental Health Commission (Commission) leading the implementation planning for remaining actions of the Compliance Action Plan, which aims to improve compliance with the *Mental Health Act 2014*. The Commission will liaise with lead agencies to coordinate a detailed Implementation Plan which will be provided for JLG endorsement and oversight.

Mental Health Act Implementation Group

Members were informed about the Commission's proposal to establish a Mental Health Act Implementation Group to support operational readiness for the upcoming amendments. Membership will include Health Service Providers, Department of Health, the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist, Mental Health Advocacy Service; the Mental Health Tribunal and Lived Experience representatives.

Members were supportive of integrating outstanding recommendations from the Mental Health Advocacy Service Inquiry Report, to be actioned through the Mental Health Act Implementation Group and the CAP Resources Working Group that will be established by the Commission to review training and education resources on the *Mental Health Act 2014*.

Independent Governance Review System-Wide Phased Organisational Change Plan

Members discussed possible next steps to address the [Independent Review of WA Health System Governance Report](#) recommendation: *'The Mental Health Commission and Department of Health will implement a phased change plan to build capacity, enhance shared understanding, integrate lived experience perspectives and apply contemporary, recovery-oriented approaches to mental health and alcohol and other drug services'*. Members requested additional information prior to determining next steps.

Workforce – WA Mental Health Workforces Capability Framework

Members provided feedback on the draft Mental Health Capability Framework, which defines the contributions of allied health, health sciences, Lived Experience, Aboriginal health, mental health nursing, and medical professionals in WA public mental health services. The Framework is designed to enhance the capacity, collaboration, and understanding of multidisciplinary teams in delivering high quality, person-centred mental health services across Western Australia's public sector.

State Government Guide to a Trauma-Informed Approach

Members noted the Commission is developing a State Government Guide to a Trauma Informed Approach (The Guide) and confirmed their commitment to contributing to its development.

Other items of note

Members received brief verbal updates on the Joint Executive Directors Sub-Group, Clinical Advisory Group, and the Lived Experience Advisory Group, all of which have all met this year. A Project Watching Brief was also provided to the JLG to note key updates and upcoming milestones of the following items:

- Infrastructure to support Mental Health projects.
- Progress against the Outcome Measurements Framework.
- *Criminal Law Impairment Act 2023* (CLMI).
- Collective responsibility to support compliance of the *Alcohol and Other Drugs Act 1974*.

The next JLG meeting is scheduled for 29 May 2025.