

Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Joint Leadership Group

Communique – Meeting 9 October 2025

The eighth meeting of the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Joint Leadership Group (JLG) was held on 9 October 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 (MHAOD Strategy) (when completed) in alignment with the Outcome Measurement Framework (when completed).

Independent Governance Review System-Wide Phased Change Plan

Members endorsed a Statement of Commitment that outlines its approach commencing organisational culture change across the Mental Health Commission (Commission), Department of Health and Health Service Providers (HSPs). The Statement of Commitment marks a step toward system-wide transformation, which includes prioritising a thriving mental health Lived Experience (Peer) workforce. Implementation will commence with the development of individual Lived Experience Inclusion Plans (LEIP) by each agency, aligned with the [National Lived Experience \(Peer\) Workforce Development Guidelines](#). The LEIPs will outline actions to strengthen the inclusion of lived experience perspectives across governance, service, program and policy design, delivery and evaluation. The Commission will coordinate annual progress reporting through the JLG.

Restrictive Practices – Statement of Intent

Members discussed current comprehensive activities being undertaken by HSPs to reduce the use of restrictive practices in mental health settings. The group acknowledged an active commitment to minimise the use of seclusion and restraint, while balancing work health and safety obligations for staff and service users.

Workforce – Mental Health Capability Framework

Members endorsed publication of the Western Australian (WA) Mental Health Workforce Capability Framework (Framework). The Framework provides a high-level summary of capability requirements to guide workforce planning and development across the system, supporting consistent, recovery-orientated practice. It aligns with the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy 2022 – 2032.

Community Mental Health Treatment, Support and Emergency Services Reform (CTSER) Implementation Plan - Overview of current status

Members received an update on the development of a CTSER Implementation Plan, which will provide a strategic guide for implementation and evaluation of reform initiatives. The JLG agreed to seek advice from the Clinical Advisory Group (CAG) and Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) to help inform their decision making.

Health Service Provider Alcohol and Other Drugs Priorities

Members endorsed the following immediate actions, informed by an audit of HSP alcohol and other drugs services, gaps and opportunities, targeted consultation and analysis:

- Elevate alcohol and other drugs through alignment of workforce actions within existing WA Health workforce governance structures.
- Continue expansion of the Take-Home Naloxone Program across HSPs.
- Strengthen clinical capacity for opioid treatment and withdrawal management in virtual and hospital settings.

- Establish an informal cross HSP Alcohol and Other Drugs Network Group to support collaboration and information sharing.

Other items of note

Members received updates on the recent meetings of the Joint Executive Directors Sub-Group, CAG and LEAG. This included advice from CAG and LEAG on the development of the Service-level Outcome Measurement Framework, and how transition support could be enhanced for individuals moving from child and adolescent services to youth and adult services.

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, Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2025-2030.
- Collective responsibility to support compliance of the *Alcohol and Other Drugs Act 1974*.
- Addressing service gaps in under 17-year-old cohorts.
- Suicide Prevention.
- Neurodiversity.
- 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 updates on major infrastructure projects, including the Bunbury Hospital Redevelopment and Geraldton Health Campus Expansion, which will increase mental health bed capacity and improve regional service access. An update was also provided on recent public sector reforms that have clarified infrastructure governance and strengthened accountability for the delivery of major health projects, with oversight now led through the Department of Health's Infrastructure, Medical Research and Innovation Division.

The next JLG meeting is scheduled for 11 December 2025.