

# Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Lived Experience Advisory Group Communiqué

## 7 August 2025

The Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) supports the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Joint Leadership Group (JLG) by providing advice grounded in lived experience and human rights, reflecting the voices of consumers, family, significant others and community with a lived experience of mental health, and/or alcohol and other drug issues, harms and service use across the service systems.

This Communiqué provides a summary of the key items tabled at the LEAG meeting for the specific purpose of providing advice to the JLG.

### **Services and supports for 16–17-year-olds accessing public mental health services**

The LEAG was invited to provide advice regarding timely, appropriate and seamless support for young people aged 16-17 years (and their families, carers and significant others) who require treatment and care from public mental health services.

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

- Prioritising the findings and recommendations from the Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infant, Child and Adolescent aged 0-18 years.
- Strengthening integration and planning between Commonwealth and State funded services.
- Seamless, wrap-around care through enhanced integration between community and public mental health services.
- Aligning age eligibility for services, with flexibility to account for individual needs.
- Involving young people in developing recommendations and service design.
- Integrated pathways with dedicated transition coordinators to support warm handovers between services, and post referral support.
- Family and carer perspectives, and family-based models.
- Building capacity of systems to enable young people to make decisions about their care.
- Support for young people on waiting lists, including for those who “age out” while waiting.
- Consideration of key groups within this age cohort, including youth in justice settings, children of incarcerated parents, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth and LGBTQIA+ young people.

### **Service Level Outcomes Measurement Framework**

The LEAG was invited to provide advice on an appropriate approach to developing person-centred service-level outcomes aligned 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:

- Importance of co-production approach with peak bodies and other non-government organisations including those who represent consumers, carers, families and significant others.
- Consideration of existing outcome frameworks and measures (national and international).
- Flexibility to capture multiple outcomes, including clinical outcomes, user experience, personal goals, and psychosocial outcomes, including through a mix of qualitative and quantitative measures.
- Challenges such as determining appropriate outcomes for individuals experiencing co-occurring issues and capturing the needs of those individuals who do not engage with services.
- Transparent, independent and real-time data collection free from bias, to ensure responsive care, accountability and public reporting, including provision of feedback to those accessing the service.

**The next LEAG meeting is scheduled for 6 November 2025.**