

Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Joint Leadership Group

Communique – Meeting 9 July 2026

The eleventh meeting of the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Joint Leadership Group (JLG) was held on Thursday 9 July 2026. This communique provides stakeholders with information about the discussions 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 inpatient 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 2026-2031 in alignment with the Outcome Measurement Framework.

Independent Governance Review System-Wide Phased Change Plan – Lived Experience Inclusion Plans

Members received an overview of the Mental Health Commission's Lived Experience Inclusion Plan (LEIP) and presentations from the Mental Health Commission, Department of Health and Health Service Providers on the development and implementation of their respective LEIPs.

Members noted the significant work undertaken across the system to develop robust plans that aim to strengthen lived experience participation and leadership in governance, planning, service design and service delivery. Presentations highlighted a range of approaches aligned with the National Lived Experience Workforce Guidelines to embed lived experience expertise, workforce development, education and training, and organisational culture change across the system.

Members also noted the importance of ensuring lived experience participation supports genuine system transformation and informs decision-making at all levels.

Members endorsed the Lived Experience Inclusion Plans.

Mental Health Act Compliance Action Plan

Members received an update on progress against the *Mental Health Act 2014* Compliance Action Plan Longer-Term Actions. Members also endorsed seeking advice from the Clinical Advisory Group and Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) on the Resources Working Group recommendations relating to Mental Health Act resources and training, and noted that further work will be progressed through the Joint Executive Directors Group to strengthen implementation.

Mental Health Act Amendment Bill

Members received an update on the progress of the Mental Health Act Amendment Bill and associated implementation planning and governance arrangements. Members noted the update and that further information will be provided as the legislative process progresses.

Mental Health Inpatient Snapshot Survey (MHIS)

Members noted the upcoming 2026 Mental Health Inpatient Snapshot Survey date. The survey continues to provide important information regarding inpatient flow, enhancements to discharge processes and system-wide opportunities to improve outcomes for consumers and support more timely transitions from inpatient care.

National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement

Members received an update on the process for the development of the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement. Members noted the compressed timeframe for development, and that Western Australia's contribution to the development process will draw heavily from the existing

consultation undertaken that informed the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2026-2031 and the Suicide Prevention Framework, as well as targeted engagement with peaks, key agencies and governance mechanisms. Members noted the advice provided by the LEAG.

Other items of note

Members received updates on the recent meetings of the Joint Executive Directors Sub-Group (JED) and LEAG.

This included:

- Advice from LEAG on:
 - The National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement.
 - Implementation considerations for Lived Experience Inclusion Plans and the importance of strengthening lived experience expertise across the system.
- Updates from JED on improving service access for the 16-17-year-old cohort, the Infant, Child and Adolescent System Transformation Project, Mental Health Emergency Centres and Mental Health Observation Areas, and neurodiversity reform activities.

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

- Implementation of the WA Eating Disorders Framework 2025-2030.
- Development of a collaborative approach to commissioning services.
- Delivery of the WA Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2026-2031.
- Planning and delivery of Alcohol and Other Drugs initiatives.
- Independent Governance Review System-Wide Phased Change Plan.
- Collective responsibility to support compliance of the *Mental Health Act 2014*.
- Workforce.
- Suicide Prevention.
- Neurodiversity.
- Progress against the Outcome Measurement Framework.
- *Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) Act 2023*.
- Health led model – collaboration with WA Police.

The next JLG meeting is scheduled for 10 September 2026.