

Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Joint Leadership Group

Communique – Meeting 14 May 2026

The tenth meeting of the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Joint Leadership Group (JLG) was held on Thursday 14 May 2026. 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 2026-2031 in alignment with the Outcome Measurement Framework (once finalised).

Improving service access for 16-17 year-old cohorts

Members received an update on next steps to progress options to enhance access to and transitions between services for young people, including data analysis of current inpatient and outpatient activity.

Community Mental Health Treatment Support and Emergency Services Reform (CTSER) Draft Implementation Plan

The CTSER Draft Implementation Plan was endorsed, with members noting that a separate governance process will be established to monitor its implementation and progress. The CTSER reforms aim to deliver sustained transformation in how people experience support—from access and assessment through to self-care and ongoing services. This will support a more coordinated, person-centred system of care.

Chief Psychiatrist Update

Members received a biannual update from the Chief Psychiatrist on key activities, priorities and emerging issues of the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist relevant to the JLG.

Topics of discussion included:

- Ongoing review and refinement of clinical standards and guidelines to improve clarity, usability and consistency, supported by a staged and consultative implementation approach.
- Updates to Authorised Hospital Standards to deliver a more streamlined and consistent framework, with appropriate transition arrangements for services.
- System challenges within custodial mental health services, including limited access to inpatient care and workforce constraints, with advice informing Government considerations.
- Strengthened engagement with Aboriginal communities, including culturally responsive training initiatives and leadership development opportunities to support workforce capability.
- Actions to improve vaccination access for mental health and alcohol and other drug consumers, supporting better physical health outcomes.

Mental Health Inpatient Snapshot Survey (MHISS)

Members were presented with the MHISS report for noting and feedback. Members discussed opportunities to improve access to supported accommodation, particularly for older adults, and the need for coordination across agencies.

Other items of note

Members received updates on the recent meetings of the JED, Clinical Advisory Group (CAG) and Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG).

This included:

- Advice from CAG and LEAG on priority areas for neurodiversity to inform planning and decision-making

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](#).

- Advice from CAG on strategies to reduce presentations to Emergency Departments.
- Advice from LEAG on implementation of the Community Treatment, Support and Emergency Services Reform (CTSER) project.

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 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 Measurements Framework.
- *Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) Act 2023*.
- Collective responsibility to support compliance of the *Alcohol and Other Drugs Act 1974*.
- Health led model – collaboration with WA Police.
- National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement.

The next JLG meeting is scheduled for 9 July 2026.