

**Recovery Colleges Expert Panel  
Meeting 1 - 28 March 2018  
Communique**

The recently appointed Expert Panel (Panel) met at the Mental Health Commission (MHC) for the first Recovery Colleges Expert Panel meeting held on Wednesday 28 March, 2018. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr Joe Calleja and Ms Tandi Kuwana.

The Panel consists of a range of individuals from many different backgrounds and experience in mental health, alcohol and other drugs. The MHC also attended the meeting to provide advice and support. Secretariat support was provided by an independent consultant.

The role of the Panel is to oversee the development of an evidence-informed model of service for Recovery Colleges in Western Australia through a co-design process. This will involve engaging with consumers, their families and carers, and health workers in the design and development of the model.

The Expert Panel will maintain a high level of independence in the development of the model of service. This will ensure a true co-design process for the development of the model of service for Recovery Colleges in Western Australia is carried out.

The Mental Health Commissioner, Mr Timothy Marney attended the first meeting of the Panel and provided an overview of the strategic context for the project and key deliverables. The Commissioner advised that the Minister for Mental Health and the Parliamentary Secretary view the development of the model of service for Recovery Colleges as an important project for the McGowan Government.

An overview of the Terms of Reference was presented and Panel members were requested to provide feedback and comments. In addition, the governance structure and confidentiality issues were also discussed.

The MHC provided a summary of the election commitment that included the allocation of \$200,000 for the planning for a Recovery College in Western Australia. Key issues relating to the election commitment were discussed.

The responsibilities of the MHC were discussed. The MHC representatives have a non-voting role in the Panel meetings. MHC staff will step out of the meeting if the Panel members require a discussion to take place without them present. The key deliverable for the MHC is the development of a Business Case to Government that will be underpinned by the model of service. The timeframe for the completion of the model of service by the Panel is by the end of September 2018.

The MHC tabled an example template for a model of service for Panel members to consider. The Panel agreed to use the template to guide their model of service discussions.

The Panel was informed by the MHC that Ms Jane Rennison, an international expert and Senior Consultant for Implementing Recovery through Organisational Change (ImROC) has been contracted to run independent information sessions on Recovery Colleges at Floreat Forum on:

- Tuesday 10 April 2018:  
Session 1: 9:00am to 11:30am  
Session 2: 1:00pm to 3:30pm
- Wednesday 11 April 2018  
Session 3: 1:00pm to 3:30pm  
Session 4: 5:30pm to 8:00pm

The community and any stakeholders are encouraged to attend an information session, by going onto the MHC's website and registering for a session: [www.mhc.wa.gov.au](http://www.mhc.wa.gov.au)

A Panel workshop with Ms Rennison will take place on 13 April 2018.

To support an evidenced-informed approach, the MHC commissioned an independent literature review to provide background information for the panel. The MHC tabled the independent literature review undertaken by Australian Healthcare Associates. This literature will also be available on the MHC's website in due course.

The next Recovery Colleges Expert Panel meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday, 13 April 2018.