

**Recovery Colleges Expert Panel
Meeting 9 – 11 September 2018
Communique**

On Tuesday 11 September 2018 the Recovery College Expert Panel (Panel) met for their ninth meeting at the Mental Health Commission (MHC).

Representatives from the MHC's Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation Branch met with the Panel to provide advice regarding the development of the Recovery College Objectives. It was recommended to the Panel that validated tools be used to evaluate the Model of Service, with the Recovery Assessment Scale Domains and Stages (RAS-DS) measure given as an example. The MHC advised that there are two types of evaluation that will take place, which includes both the evaluation of the program as a whole and course specific evaluation. The Panel raised the issue of identification and use of evaluation tools that have been used for Aboriginal populations and tools that relate to both Alcohol and Other Drug issues as well as mental health. The principle of co-design being used in the development of the evaluation items and the need to reduce the burden of assessments on participants so that it does not replicate evaluations used in clinical situations was also raised. The MHC advised that the aim of any tool used is to demonstrate to government that the investment has achieved what it is supposed to achieve. The Panel advised that there is also the need to demonstrate to government the economic benefit of the Model of Service.

The MHC advised the Panel that the community consultation process that was due to take place between meetings 8 and 9 to inform the final stages of the development of the Draft Model of Service has been put on hold. The MHC advised of budget constraints regarding the Recovery College which have implications for the consultation process which will need to be undertaken after clarity on the budget parameters has been achieved.

The main discussions undertaken by the Panel centred around the costing of the Draft Model of Service to be provided to the Department of Treasury as part of the Business Case to be finalised by October 2018.

The MHC walked the Panel through the Model of Service costing options and the general assumptions made. The Panel raised many questions throughout the meeting which included questions on the following:

- period of funding to be provided;
- co-production and Model of Service principles to be included in the procurement phase;
- timeline associated with the endorsement of the final Model of Service;
- costing benchmarks and inclusions;
- timeline associated with the establishment of the Recovery College and development of courses provided by the successful provider;
- promotion of the Recovery College;
- consultation and engagement across agencies; and
- engagement with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) and Aboriginal communities.

As a result of the information provided by the MHC, the Panel recommended that an additional meeting was required to further discuss the Draft Model of Service and the costings used in the Business Case that will be submitted to the Department of Treasury. As a result, the next Panel meeting is scheduled to take place on 20 September 2018.