

Independent Chair Communique No. 2

I am pleased to be able to share my second update as the Chair of the Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents aged 0 – 18 years in Western Australia (the ICA Taskforce). The work of the ICA Taskforce is progressing well and we have started to meet with stakeholders to hear about the unique challenges and opportunities of our mental health system.

The second meeting of the ICA Taskforce was held on 15 April 2021 where discussions were again rich and constructive. In the meeting we reiterated the ICA Taskforce's commitment to being brave and harnessing this opportunity to develop a system that will be coordinated and collaborative; delivering positive and sustained change. We all agreed that building upon existing services and creating new services and doing things in a new way were very much on the table.

In the past month the ICA Taskforce have focussed on several key activities:

Expert Advisory Groups: The ICA Taskforce is supported by three Expert Advisory Groups (EAGs) which are Lived Experience, Clinical and Interagency. Members of each of the EAGs have been appointed and represent a broad range of interest, expertise, areas, ages, disciplines, regions and groups.

The first Clinical EAG was held in late April and I was impressed by the passion and pragmatic approach shown by all members. The Interagency and Lived Experience EAGs will be held in mid-May. Over the course of the project EAGs will provide key input to the outcomes of the ICA Taskforce, such as providing direction on the future mental health system; shaping the key features and details of the system; and identifying key considerations for implementation and sustainability.

Review of the Current System: The ICA Taskforce have undertaken a review of related published enquiries, investigations, research and reports to form an insights paper. Key outcomes of this review are to gain insight into the history of the system; articulate previous lessons learnt; identify barriers to the implementation or sustainability of previous recommendations and change; and identify the issues that future services must address. This is the first of a series of pieces of work that will support the taskforce and is being used to stimulate discussion at the EAGs.

Concurrently, data from Health Service Providers, the Mental Health Commission and other key agencies is being collected and analysed to assist in evidencing the current state of the system and projecting the demand for infant, child and adolescent mental health services.

Consultation Plan: Extensive consultation is planned throughout the project with consumers, families, carers, staff and stakeholders, to bridge gaps and complement knowledge from the EAGs, insights review, data analysis and other project activities. Targeted consultation is especially important to ensure minority groups and areas of particular need are represented in the future mental health system.

Future engagement opportunities will be posted on the ICA Taskforce internet page, along with other ICA Taskforce updates and key information.

I am looking forward to the third Taskforce meeting in May where we will start to give shape to the gaps and issues that need to be addressed to develop user informed, sustainable future services, and include the feedback from the first Clinical EAG into our discussions. If you have any questions, comments or feedback for the ICA Taskforce please email CATaskforce@mhc.wa.gov.au

Robyn Kruk AO

Independent Taskforce Chair