



## COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH, ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE - MEETING 16 SEPTEMBER 2021

The fifth meeting of the Community Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Council (CMC) was attended by the Minister for Mental Health and held on 16 September 2021. This communique provides all stakeholders with information and outcomes from this meeting.

The purpose of the CMC is to lead the continuous development of a mental health, alcohol and other drug (AOD) system that is efficient, sustainable, recovery-focused, consumer-led and integrated. The CMC represents the community sector and works alongside the Mental Health Executive Committee (MHEC) to ensure there is system integration and connection of clinical and community services within the wider mental health and AOD sector.

The key priority projects of the MHEC and CMC continue to be the [Community Treatment and Emergency Response Roadmap](#), [Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents](#), [Graylands Reconfiguration and Forensic Taskforce](#) (GRAFT) and the Long Stay Patient Project. The committees continue to be consulted and receive regular updates on progress, noting further information is provided below.

### Minister for Mental Health address

The Hon Stephen Dawson, Minister for Mental Health, attended his first CMC meeting to discuss his and the Government's priorities and to hear from the CMC their key focus areas.

The Minister reiterated that the mental health and AOD system is a priority for the Government, with the need for people to have more options in the community so there is less pressure on emergency departments and hospitals. The Government's \$494 million budget boost in mental health and AOD over the next four years will assist in doing this, with the majority of the investment to uplift community services and ease the pressure on emergency departments.

A focus for the Government is for services to be integrated from a system perspective, not just from the mental health and AOD sector, but also across housing, education, community services and disability services to provide holistic care. As part of the Government's mental health boost, a \$129.9 million youth package seeks for services to be integrated from a system perspective and provide our young people an opportunity to recover in the community and close to their support networks.

The Minister stressed the importance of the key priority projects. Whilst new money in the budget is a positive step forward, there is still a lot of work to be done to look at how services are configured to best serve the people of WA. The key priority projects underway will assist with this by bringing our system together so people are provided the care they need in their recovery journey.

Workforce was raised as a key priority for the Minister to ensure that the workforce is ready when the three key priority projects are finalised and implementation across the sector occurs. The Minister requested the CMC to assist with finding practical solutions to four key areas, so the sector is ready when the new models of care come onboard:

- Building capacity and capability of the peer workforce and integrating the peer workforce across the sector;
- Building the capacity and capability of the Aboriginal workforce. Aboriginal led organisations that have Aboriginal staff results in better outcomes for Aboriginal people;
- Sector development; and
- Trauma-informed practices.

The CMC had opportunity to discuss with the Minister a range of key focus areas that will assist with system transformation. A brief summary of these themes is provided below. They include the need for:

- Leveraging opportunities to partner in a whole of government approach to find new solutions to improve access, increase community services and supporting consumers in the community;
- Increasing capacity and capability of the mental health and AOD workforce including upskilling mental health and AOD services and general health services. This also includes co-occurring mental health and AOD capacity building.

- Increasing capability of services to support the broader population with a forensic background to ensure people are caringly and competently supported and in a trauma-informed way.
- Improving access to psychiatry and retaining clinical staff in the community sector.
- Organisational capability, structures and readiness is required to support sector development.
- Considering NDIS in future models of care.
- Empowering people with lived-experience and building a quality workforce from the lived-experience perspective.
- Collaboration across services and the system and different ways of working is essential to support system reform.

### **Roadmap Project- Community Mental Health Treatment and Emergency Response Services**

The [Community Treatment and Emergency Response Roadmap](#) project remains a priority project for the CMC and MHEC to oversee and support. This project seeks to deliver fundamental system reform for public community mental health treatment and emergency response services.

Recruitment is complete for three Expert Working Groups (EWGs) whose role is to jointly develop models of care and pathways for consumers with varied needs, across primary care, community treatment and inpatient settings. The EWGs represent metropolitan, regional and remote, and emergency response stakeholder groups. Consultation will occur at every stage of the project, with strong lived-experience representation. The timeframe to complete the project has been extended to allow for appropriate consultation and targeted interviews for this major reform project.

CMC raised that peer-led consultation with consumers and with carers needs to be part of the service design for the models of care.

### **Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents aged 0-18 years in Western Australia**

The Ministerial [Taskforce](#) seeks to develop a whole of system, state-wide vision and plan for State Government funded public specialist mental health services for infants, children and adolescents. The final report will be delivered by 30 November 2021 and will make recommendations to the Minister for Mental Health with actions and a costed implementation plan.

The [Emerging Directions Paper](#) released publicly on the MHC's website on Thursday 26 August. The 10 Emerging Directions and will form the basis for more in-depth consultation and in researching and developing models of service. The CMC raised the importance of social determinants prevention/early intervention. The first 2000-3000 days of a child's life is a critical time to establishing a positive trajectory for that child's life.

Further information on the Taskforce, including regular communiques, is available on the [MHC website](#).

### **Graylands Reconfiguration and Forensic Taskforce (GRAFT)**

The [GRAFT](#) project aims to inform the Government's planning and investment decisions regarding the Graylands hospital site, forensic mental health services and the nearby Selby Older Adult Mental Health Service. A Lived Experience Advisory Group and Clinical Advisory Group have been established and will provide advice and assist the Taskforce in their decision making. Members raised that the model of care must be comprehensively understood in advance of building design.

### **Joint Regional Plans (JRP)**

WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) presented on the WA Foundational Plan for Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services, and Suicide Prevention, which outlines the intersecting service provision commissioned and delivered by the WA Mental Health Commission, Health Service Providers and WAPHA, to enhance access to care across the broader WA healthcare system. The CMC raised the need to ensure a systematic strategic approach to coordinate lived-experience contributions across the Joint Regional Plans.

### **Needs of people involved in the criminal justice system**

The Mental Health Advisory Council (MHAC) raised that the needs of people involved with the criminal justice system, including older adults, be recognised and addressed within all key priority projects. The CMC agreed that this was an important issue and that mainstream mental health and AOD services need to have the skills and capacity to work with people involved in the justice system.

## **Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Workforce Planning**

The expansion of mental health workforce across the community sector and health services remains a high priority for both the CMC and the MHEC. The MHC is working with CMC members to determine what is required for the workforce from a mental health and AOD perspective for the immediate term in the next 12 months, as well as a longer-term plan. The MHC is working with CMC members to progress immediate/short term and longer-term strategies and initiatives to support mental health and AOD workforce planning.

CMC in conjunction with MHC will undertake further work to develop clear workforce requirements

### **WA State Priorities Quarterly update**

The latest Quarterly Update on all system reform projects currently underway across the sector was endorsed by MHEC and is available on the [MHC website](#)

### **Items for Noting**

Other topics that were on the CMC agenda for noting included the launch of MHC's Stakeholder Connect, progress towards the implementation of the Community Care Unit and an update on the range of initiatives in prevention services for infants, children and adolescents in the mental health and AOD sector.

**The next CMC meeting is scheduled for 7 December 2021.** *Please feel free to distribute this Communique to your wider networks. Communiques and other relevant documents for the CMC and MHEC are available on the [MHC's website](#)*