



SYSTEM-WIDE DATA WORKING GROUP COMMUNIQUE – MEETING 26 MAY 2022

The eighth meeting of the System-Wide Data Working Group (SWDWG) was held on 26 May 2022. This communique provides all stakeholders with information and outcomes from this meeting.

The SWDWG's purpose is to support the Mental Health Executive Committee (MHEC) and the Community Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drug Council (CMC) by undertaking time-limited data-related projects. These projects will provide advice in relation to the ongoing monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug sectors. A list of the SWDWG members can be found [here](#) (current as of 31/03/2022).

Outcomes Measurement Framework Project

The Outcomes Measurement Framework (OMF) Project seeks to develop an OMF for the WA State Priorities Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs 2020 – 2024 (WA State Priorities). The objective of the OMF is to support evidence-based decision-making and reporting on the progress with achieving outcomes anticipated in the WA State Priorities.

At its meeting on 31 March 2022, the Working Group endorsed the project plan outlining the proposed activities to be undertaken in Tranche Two subject to the implementation of changes discussed during the meeting. Tranche Two focuses on identifying and developing outcomes at a service stream, system and state level.

MHEC and CMC provided in-principle approval of the proposed stakeholder engagement approach to finalise the Tranche One deliverables and the draft Tranche Two project plan.

Annual Review of the Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference was circulated to members out of session for review and feedback on 2 May 2022. Minor changes were made based on the feedback and discussed at the Work Group. No changes were made to the Working Group's purpose or role. As part of the annual review process, a Report on Activities 2021 outlining the SWDWG operations and key deliverables and achievements for the 2021 calendar year, as well as an overview of the proposed workplan for 2022, has been developed. The Report on Activities 2021 and the updated Terms of Reference have been provided to the MHEC and CMC for approval.

Carer Experience Survey (CES) Pilot 2022

The CES is a nationally developed survey tool seeking information about family, friends and carer experiences of public sector clinical mental health services. A pilot of the CES survey in public mental health services in Western Australia contributes to MHC's strategic objectives to develop, lead and coordinate achievement of system-wide outcomes. It introduces a standardised, consistent measure of carers' experience of mental health services and could support quality improvement, service evaluation and benchmarking between services.

The objective of the pilot is to determine the usefulness of the feedback for services and identify and resolve any potential issues and estimate the time and resources required to inform a state-wide implementation, should that be the recommendation after the pilot.

The Working Group discussed their concerns surrounding the CES, which included the following points:



- The CES is designed for carers aged 18+ years, therefore, non-adult carers are not represented. It would be useful to generate normative data for non-adult carers so they can be included in the CES data collection.
- The definition of carer is complex, and it is important that the carer who completes the CES is identified and acknowledged by the consumer of the mental health treatment service.
- Whether the CES can be adapted for use in AOD treatment services as well as mental health treatment services. It was noted that the Commonwealth Government are developing a 'Family and Friends Outcome Framework for Alcohol and Other Drug Services', which is being designed to support family and friends concerned about AOD use by loved ones.
- Many of the questions in the CES could be problematic or confronting for carers and appear to be reinforcing the status quo. There is a need for a survey that is developed by people with lived experience to ensure the purpose of the survey is clear and transformative.
- The high level of literacy of the CES could be a barrier to obtaining data.

The concerns surrounding the CES were acknowledged, and opportunities for discussion at a national level regarding a revision of the CES that focuses on co-design and capturing the experience of people with lived experience will be explored.

Items for Noting

Other topics for noting included a question raised by the Mental Health Advisory Council in regard to what LGBTQIA+ data is currently being captured in Western Australia and whether there is scope to expand on this in the future in order to apply a LGBTQIA+ lens to mental health. No other business was raised from the Working Group.

The next SWDWG meeting is scheduled for 14 July 2022. *Please feel free to distribute this Communique to your wider networks. Communiques and other relevant documents for the SWDWG are available on the MHC's website.*