

<b>Chair</b>	Margaret Doherty (MD) via Ms Teams	Geraldton Multipurpose Centre 31 Foreshore Drive, Geraldton and MS Teams  Thursday, 10 November 2022 08:30am – 11:00am
<b>Members Attendees</b>	Patricia Councillor (PC), Paul Parfitt (PP), Richard Oades (RO), Virginia Catterall (VC), Jessica Nguyen (JN), Nafiso Mohamed (NM), Jennifer Wilton (JW) (via Ms Teams), Tracey Young (TY)	
<b>Guests</b>		
<b>MHC Support</b>	Cath Colvin, A/Principal Policy Officer System Engagement MHC Cynthia Leal, A/D Governance & Stakeholder Engagement MHC Larissa Barnao, Project Support Officer Governance and System Engagement MHC (via MS Teams)	
<b>Apologies</b>	Pauline Cole, Lee Steel	
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION LOG</b>
<b>1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners</b>	Both the Deputy Chair and Chair acknowledged the Yamatji peoples. Respects were paid to Elders past, present and future.	
<b>2. Welcome and apologies</b>	The Chair and Deputy Chair welcomed panel members and provided a brief overview of the function of the Mental Health Advisory Council.	
<b>3. Recognition of Lived Experience</b>	The Chair recognised those with a lived and living experience and acknowledged the emotional labour that comes with drawing on this expertise.	
<b>4. Panel Discussion</b>	<p>The Chair and Deputy Chair welcomed attendees and thanked them for joining the discussions, providing the Council with a valuable insight into local mental health service provision. These discussions will assist the Council in preparing independent advice for the Mental Health Commissioner. The following was discussed in further detail by the panel:</p> <p><b>Ms Lisa Pinkney - Coordinator of Nursing &amp; Midwifery, WA Country Health Service - Midwest</b></p> <p>Over the past twenty years, the number of people seeking mental health support has increased significantly, which has been contributed to by drug and alcohol use. There have been additional challenges experienced by the Geraldton Regional Hospital in the past two and a half years. The ED consists of nine beds. Two of these are set aside for people experiencing mental health challenges however, there is no separate physical space. This is challenging because it provides</p>	

a high stimulus environment for individuals already affected by mental health and possible challenges with alcohol and other drug use.

As part of the infrastructure upgrades funded by WA Country Health Service, the new development of the Geraldton Health Campus includes an expanded ED; a new intensive care unit co-located with a re-developed High Dependency Unit and a new integrated mental health service (twelve beds). This includes an acute psychiatric unit and a mental health short stay unit.

**Ms Deborah Childs– Chief Executive Officer, HelpingMinds**

The HelpingMinds team in Geraldton is comprised of five team members and offers comprehensive support to family and carers, including early intervention programs. Support is also offered in the regions outside of Geraldton. The agency also has a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) team that offers support programs. HelpingMinds collaborates with a number of alliance organisations to provide a recovery-based model of care, focussing on prevention. The aim is to collaborate and partner with other organisations and entities such as the WA Recovery College and Headspace. HelpingMinds values listening to lived experience perspectives and encourages listening to people voices to identify and help meet the needs of the community. The importance of supporting each other to network and identify possibilities for collaboration was mentioned.

**Ms Deborah Woods – Chief Executive Officer, Geraldton Aboriginal Medical Services (GRAMS)**

The GRAMS has been around for forty-two years and has a number of regional partnerships including as part of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Challenges have included: designing and delivering new services for the local Aboriginal community, in a safe and secure way; and having access to an experienced Aboriginal workforce continues to present challenges.

GRAMS actively partners with other organisations across the regions, including Wiluna and Kalgoorlie, to provide services to a highly transient Aboriginal target group. Ms Woods spoke about a 'plague' of alcohol and other drug issues impacts Aboriginal communities, and in particular how a culture of normalising these issues can make it difficult to tackle the problem effectively. Another challenge is the small workforce pool, with many people not returning to work roles post COVID-19. However, online training is a well-accepted means to support remote learning.

Services are provided on a limited budget with government funding for a small number of services. The community spirit is strong, with volunteers providing food for those in need and responding

	<p>as best they can. A strong and passionate team is the cornerstone of their success however good coordination of 'cradle to grave' initiatives is essential to developing strategies of how to move forward.</p> <p><b>Mr Garrick Horsham – Recovery Co-ordinator, Fusion Australia (Fusion)</b></p> <p>A national, not for profit organisation, Fusion Australia has provided services to the Geraldton community for approximately thirteen years. This includes Community Supported Residential units with fourteen beds available for individuals with severe and persistent mental health challenges. Fusion works closely with the WA Country Health Service, noting access to psychiatrists has improved recently and this has been welcomed. An acute ward has been planned as part of the Geraldton Regional Hospital development and will benefit the entire community given that people requiring acute treatment and care in the past been sent to Perth.</p> <p>The fourteen-bed Community Supported Residential units are considered a transitional service however there are no current services for individuals to be transitioned to. It was noted the current lack of accommodation in Geraldton presents a difficulty. However, individuals are not discharged if they do not have somewhere to go - one individual has been in the unit since its inception due to lack of appropriate post-discharge support services.</p>	
<p><b>5. Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country</b></p>	<p>At 9:30am guests for the Meet and Greet gathering joined the panel members for the Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country.</p>	
<p><b>6. Meet and Greet</b></p>	<p>The Deputy Chair welcomed guests to the event and thanked them for attending. Guests and members had networking time to hear what is happening within the mental health space in the Midwest area.</p>	
<p><b>Meeting closed at 11:00am</b></p>		
<p><b>NEXT MEETING</b></p>	<p><b>Thursday, 8 December 2022.</b></p>	

**Out-of-session meeting – City of Greater Geraldton**

<b>Members Attendees</b>	Paul Parfitt (PP), Richard Oades (RO), Virginia Catterall (VC), Jessica Nguyen (JN), Nafiso Mohamed (NM), Tracey Young (TY)	Queen Elizabeth II Seniors and Community Centre 88 Durlacher Street, Geraldton Wednesday, 9 November 2022 03:00pm – 04:00pm
<b>Guests</b>	Pavlina Heiderova, Acting Coordinator Community Development, City of Greater Geraldton Peter Treharne Coordinator Community Development, City of Greater Geraldton	
<b>MHC Support</b>	Cynthia Leal, AD Governance & Stakeholder Engagement MHC Cath Colvin, A/Principal Policy Officer System Engagement MHC	
<b>Apologies</b>	Patricia Councillor (PC)	
<b>Introductions and welcome</b>	<p>Paul Parfitt provided an Acknowledgement of Country.</p> <p>Tracey Young welcomed all members and thanked the City of Greater Geraldton (CoGG) staff members for hosting the meeting at short notice and acknowledged apologies from the Chair and Deputy Chair. She then led the round table introductions and check-in.</p> <p>Virginia Catterall provided the Recognition of Lived Experience.</p>	
<b>Summary discussion</b>	<p>The Council staff talked about the newly established connection between CoGG community development team and the mental health sector describing many projects with links including the Surf to Smile program, Men’s table, Words of Wisdom, and the Geraldton Suicide Prevention Action Group. Other relevant ongoing initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passport 2 Employment: a nine-week program for young people with disabilities that involves individualised support for employment and further education. This includes collaborative practices with high schools, disability employment services and TAFE.</li> <li>• Community based diversion programs and on-country programs to promote awareness and early intervention.</li> <li>• Within the City Council, the staff newsletter includes information on wellbeing strategies.</li> <li>• A dedicated Youth Officer and a Crime Prevention Officer have been newly appointed to work collaboratively with the community to develop and implement prevention strategies.</li> </ul> <p>COGG staff reported that the WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) has provided funding to the City of Greater Geraldton to develop a twelve-month community development program which includes targeted initiatives for mental health, Aboriginal people, youth, seniors, and culturally diverse community groups. Some of the key initiatives include: An Aboriginal festival in partnership with other organisations and ‘Seniors Weeks’, which include mental health and wellbeing workshops. Members discussed useful information that could be incorporated in the evaluation report to enable successful strategies to be expanded</p>	

to other areas. Council members asked about engagement with Geraldton Hospital, how activities were reported back to Council, data collection, peer led initiatives and the Individual Placement and Support employment program.