



**ADVICE TO THE A/COMMISSIONER FOR MENTAL HEALTH**  
**System Governance for Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Services**  
**2 May 2023**

## **BACKGROUND**

Mr Simon Katteral from Katteral Consulting Victoria presented to the Mental Health Advisory Council on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Mr Katteral is a mental health consultant who provided input to the Royal Commission into the Victorian Mental Health system and who has a strong background in consumer and non-consumer designated roles at the Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council. Mr Katteral's paper entitled 'Mental, alcohol and drug services and system governance' was presented to the Mental Health Advisory Council as a guide to the presentation. Mr Katteral had researched the Western Australian sector and in light of the Independent Governance Review (IGR) provided independent advice on what works well in Victoria and the lessons learnt from their reforms.

## **ADVICE/RECOMMENDATIONS**

Given the above, the Council provides the following advice/ recommendations:

- Western Australia should consider including and involving consumers of the mental health system in the IGR. Lessons learnt from Victoria have shown that this process was beneficial.
- It is critical to ensure there are supporting capability development and culture change in the Western Australian sector to ensure the new structure is sustainable.
- It is critical to have a separate body focused solely on the governance and finance of mental health; separate to the Department of Health. It is also critical that the Mental Health Minister be separate from the Health Minister.
- Western Australia should implement a Monitoring and Performance Plan to define what is successful and provide overall direction, along with an Outcomes Measurement Framework.
- The MHC should prioritise psychosocial and early intervention services as well as supports that meet diverse needs, as emphasised in the current 10-year plan.
- Western Australia should maintain commissioning in the Mental Health Commission but should also investigate other options such as investment in regional bodies, utilising Key performance indicators and implementing an Outcomes Measurement Framework.
- Western Australia should create mechanisms to enforce standards in mental health services to increase regulatory oversight and quality improvement.
- Western Australia should provide leadership opportunities to lived experience representatives, including as part of the IGR.
- Western Australia should consider more equal power distribution through an adequate Outcomes Measurement Framework to enable collaborative governance.

Sincerely

Patricia Councillor  
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON  
Mental Health Advisory Council  
2 May 2023

Note: The Chair is not providing this information due to a potential conflict of interest.