



COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH, ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE - MEETING 11, 28 February 2023

The 11th meeting of the Community Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Council (CMC) was held on 28 February 2023. This Communique provides all stakeholders with information and outcomes from the meeting.

The key priority projects of the CMC and Mental Health Executive Committee (MHEC) continue to be the Community Treatment and Emergency Responses Project, Implementation of the Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents (ICA) Taskforce Recommendations, Mental Health and AOD Workforce Planning to build a skilled and sustainable workforce through a suitable workforce plan and appropriate strategies is also a key priority. CMC are also across the progress of Graylands Reconfiguration and Forensic Taskforce (GRAFT), which is a MHEC priority initiative.

ICA Implementation Update

Members were advised three Models of Care will be submitted to MHEC for endorsement including: Justice and Forensic Model of Care, Support to Schools Model of Care, and Complex Trauma Model of Care.

Members noted that the Minister for Mental Health has requested quarterly updates and meetings on ICA implementation to provide a high-level overview of program aims and consultation undertaken. The new governance arrangements will build on existing frameworks and includes the creation of a Project Control Group, Implementation Working Groups, a Research and Innovation Group and an Advisory Group. Members identified that Lived Experience representation in this governance structure is essential.

Workforce

The CMC Workforce Sub-Group agreed that Mental Health and AOD community services sector workforces and consumers have differing needs, and while there are some agreed foundational commonalities it was difficult to find common, overarching specific workforce objectives.

Members discussed the importance of ensuring alignment of between the Community Mental Health and AOD Workforce Action Plan, and new models of care in the community currently under development through other priority workforce projects, for example, the Lived Experience Framework to avoid duplications of efforts.

Recruitment is slowly being finalised for the Lived Experience (Peer) implementation team with positions being filled. This has enabled the delivery of Peer Work Positives sessions to the wider community sector, Human Resources and Health Service Provider (HSP) staff to provide increased education and awareness of Lived Experience (Peer) workforces. Members were encouraged to promote the training to their contacts and staff. Resources are in development to support the Lived Experience (Peer) workforce and will include an online website, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience (Peer) worker guide and Lived experience (Peer) handbook.

Long Stay Patients

Members were updated on the work being undertaken by the cross-agency Long Stay Working Group which, as of January 2023, has consulted on more than 565 patients experiencing National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) related discharge delays developing bespoke solutions to address these barriers to discharge.

Audit by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) was tabled in Parliament on 16 Nov 2022 recommending systemic management of long stay patients. The Department of Health (DoH), Commission, Department of Communities have developed a joint implementation plan to address these recommendations. The DoH is also drafting a Long Stay Program Framework which is due to be presented to the Long Stay Steering Committee for approval.

CMC Review

The Social Ventures Australia review of CMC has been completed and received by Commission. An internal review of findings is being undertaken and will be presented to the Commission Senior Executive Group and then circulated to CMC members. The frequency of CMC meetings has been raised as inadequate by members citing a need to align better with MHEC.

Statutory Review of Mental Health Act Update

Members were advised the Commission and Statutory Review Steering Group are finalising the draft report on the outcomes of the Statutory review. CMC will be provided with a copy of the report for noting before it is submitted to the Minister.

Members did raise questions regarding the Statutory Review and the processes with the Human Rights Review and requested that this be noted.

Other items of note:

2022 Mental Health Inpatient Survey Snapshot (MHISS)
Update on AODAB activities/2023 priorities
Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) Bill Reform
Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT)
Mental Health Clinical Workforce Action Plan

The next CMC meeting is scheduled for 9 May 2023.

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](#)