



COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH, ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE - MEETING 13, 1 August 2023

The 13th meeting of the Community Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Council (CMC) was held on 1 August 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.

Drug Law Reform

Members noted the 'Help Not Handcuffs 2019' report, including recommendation thirty: *Trialling a drug checking service*. Members discussed and agreed that reframing the argument for drug testing from a public health perspective will result in several benefits and further noted that collecting data on drug use and harm would assist in strengthening the argument in support of drug checking services.

Aboriginal Alcohol and Other Drug Sector Leadership Report

Members were presented with the Aboriginal Alcohol and Other Drug Sector Leadership Report and its 7 recommendations. Members discussed the importance of ensuring the gap in progressing Aboriginal Leadership is addressed.

Western Australia Mental Health Research Strategy

An update was provided on the progress of the Research Strategy; it is continuing towards Ministerial endorsement as a formal WA Mental Health Research Strategy before the team considers implementation.

Infant Child and Adolescent Taskforce – Implementation Update

Members were updated on the expansion of the Child and Adolescence Mental Health Services' Touchstone programme to improve service access for young people. Members noted the service guarantee was heavily co-designed with lived experience involvement to lead cultural change. Members discussed the importance of ensuring transformation of mental health services through formal and documented engagement of Lived Experience expertise, families, consumers and carers.

Community Mental Health Treatment Services (CTER)

Members noted a verbal update, detailing CTER's plans until the end of 2023. This included consolidating pre-existing work to produce a report for Government and establishing a project reference group, clinical reference group and lived experience reference group to consult with.

Graylands Reconfiguration and Forensic Taskforce (GRAFT)

Members were informed the taskforce has now concluded and submitted a final report to Cabinet. Work is underway to consider construction, any necessary site works and security for expanding the 53 new forensic beds committed to in Stage 1 of the GRAFT project.

Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Accused)

Members noted that September 2024 is the anticipated implementation timeframe for this legislation and highlighted the importance of psychosocial support services in ensuring an effective transition process into the community.

Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces

Members noted the update on the various lines of work being progressed by the Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces, including embedding thirteen Peer Coordinators across WA and completion of the first draft of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience Guide.

Long Stay Patient Programme

Members were updated on the Long Stay Patient Programme, noted that the next steps involve establishing a range of reporting initiative and a programme control group and requested further briefing sessions to discuss a number of issues including the extent of Lived Experience involvement and exploration of support services for early discharge.

The next CMC meeting is scheduled for 14 November 2023.

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