



Mental Health Advisory Council



MHAC ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

Membership

The Mental Health Advisory Council (MHAC) was appointed by the Minister for Mental Health, Disability Services the Honourable Helen Morton MLC in May 2011.

The current members at the Council are:

Mr Barry MacKinnon (Chair)
Mr Eric Ripper (Deputy Chair)
Mr Rod Astbury
Dr Amit Banerjee
Ms Margaret Doherty
Ms Pam Gardner
Mr Chris Gostelow
Ms Petra Liedel
Ms Aimee Sinclair
Dr Michael Wright
Professor Dianne Wynaden

Retirements

During the year Mr John Edwards, Mr Lindsay Smoker and Ms Bernadette Wright retired from the Council. John, Lindsay and Bernadette were all original members of the Council. Each of these members made a unique and significant contribution to the Council for which we thank them.

Appointments

In September the Minister appointed Ms Aimee Sinclair and Eric Ripper to the Council.

Aimee identifies as having living experience navigating the WA mental health system, other intersecting systems and society more broadly as a consumer, family member and peer. In addition to her lived experience Aimee has degrees in commerce and sociology and is working towards her doctorate at Curtin University.

Eric Ripper is the Council's Deputy Chairman. Eric had a long and distinguished career in the WA Parliament over 25 years as a member of the Australian Labor Party including time as Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for State Development as well as Leader of the Opposition.



Purpose

The purpose of the Mental Health Advisory Council is to provide expert, balanced, timely and confidential advice to the Mental Health Commissioner (the Commissioner) regarding major issues affecting Western Australians with mental health problems, their Carers and service providers.

Role and Function

The Council will provide independent highly focused and practical advice to the Commissioner on mental health issues including:

- Implementation of the Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025: Better Choices. Better Lives;
- Effective implementation of the Mental Health Act 2014;
- Aspects of work program(s) developed by the Commission and the Council;
- Reform, strategy implementation and broad directions for enhancing mental health and well-being;
- Improvements to funded programs to better support people with mental illness, including through better coordination and integration of existing mental health programs; and
- Appropriate strategies for developing and implementing mental health programs for people with particular needs.

Issues and Priorities

The Council priorities for the 2016-17 year have been;

- Co-Production
- Ten Year WA Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Services Plan Implementation
- Appropriate Mental Health Accommodation and Support
- Workforce development
- Mental Health Youth Services
- Culturally Sensitive Mental Health Services
- Mental Health Services in Prisons
- CEO/Chairs Forum
- Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board Co-Operation

Action

To date the Council has taken the following action on each of these priorities;

Co-Production

The Council remains committed to encouraging the adoption of Co –Production in the design and development of mental health policies and programs.

In April the MHAC held a Co-Production meeting, which was independently facilitated, with lived experience carers, family members and consumers. The meeting brought to light some important issues which will assist the MHAC in shaping its advice to the Commissioner. The MHAC agreed to hold further meetings with this group to further expand on these issues.



Co-Production is a standing item on the agenda of each MHAC meeting. Council has agreed to perform a self-assessment against the Co-production Principles to assess where Council sits in relation to its performance against these principles.

Western Australia Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Services Plan

Council members were actively involved in providing input to the draft Western Australia Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Services Plan (the Plan) as it was developed by the Mental Health Commission (MHC). The Plan was released for consultation in December 2014.

In May the Council was provided with a comprehensive update on the progress being made with the implementation of the Plan.

Appropriate Mental Health Accommodation and Support

As part of the MHAC examination of this issue, presentations to the Council were made by St Bartholomews House, Uncle Charlie Kickett, a family member from a regional area and the Housing Authority.

Following these presentations advice has been forwarded to the Commissioner.

Workforce Development

To better focus the Council's work on these issues a Workforce Working Group has been established. Council is firmly of the view that workforce development is crucial in enabling appropriate and proper support for family and networks on their journey of recovery.

During the year the Workforce Working Groups report was presented to Council.

Mental Health Youth Services

A presentation from the Youth Mental Health Network was presented at the July 2017 meeting.

Culturally Sensitive Mental Health Services

The Council maintained an active interest in ensuring that mental health services delivered or planned took into account the needs of all groups, particularly those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Mental Health Services in Prisons

The MHAC is concerned at the lack of mental health services available to prisoners and the poor level of support provided to these prisoners on their release from prison.

To that end the Council are maintaining a close interest in implementation of the recommendations included in the Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan (the Plan2) and relating to this area. Advice on the key aspects of the Plan2 that the Council consider a priority has been provided to the Commissioner. Some members of the Council also visited the regional prison during our visit to Geraldton. A briefing from the Acting Commissioner for Corrections was scheduled for the August meeting.

CEO/Chairs Forum

In July the Government approved the development of a model of service and associated legislation for a compulsory alcohol and other drug treatment program in Western Australia. To assist the Council in providing input to the Discussion Paper the Council received a briefing from Professor Steve Allsop and together with the



Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board held a Forum in November to enable attendees to provide their views on the proposed trial.

This enabled the Council to provide a submission on the Discussion Paper.

Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board Co-Operation

As both Barry Mackinnon and John Edwards were also members of the AODAB for the majority of the year the activities of both the Council and Board were reported to each. In addition the MHAC and AODAB conducted a Forum in November on the Governments proposed compulsory alcohol and other drug program.

Other Activities

Carers/Families and Consumers

The Council has continued to ensure meaningful participation of Carers/families and consumers in all its discussions and recommendations to the Mental Health Commissioner and in line with Council's values.

Mental Health Act 2014

The *Mental Health Act 2014* (the Act) came into effect on November 30th 2015.

The Council received a detailed brief on the Post Implementation Review of the Act and provided advice to the Commissioner on matters that the Council believed should be included as part of the review.

Communications

As part of Councils ongoing Communications Strategy the following actions were taken;

- A visit by Council to Geraldton
- Publishing a "Council Chatter" newsletter
- Preparation of an Annual Report
- Conducting a CEO/Chairs Forum
- Participating in Mental Health Week activities

Values

Council remains committed to its values:

- Value and respect diversity and work in an inclusive and accessible way with particular sensitivity to advocating for the most unheard of voices;
- Explore innovation in Mental Health with curiosity and seek out the best local, national and international practices; and
- Promote hope for recovery for individuals with mental ill-health and their families and carers.

At each Council meeting a member monitors the meetings deliberations and reports on our performance against these values.



Advice

Other issues on which the Council has deliberated and provided advice to the Commissioner include;

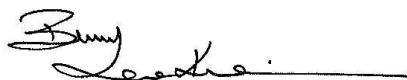
- The Commissions approach to funding performance monitoring and contractual requirements for services commissioned from Health Service Providers and how consumers, carers and families are included.
- Consumer, Family and Carer Engagement Strategy
- Mental Illness and Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Plan
- The future of the MHAC and AODAB
- Geraldton visit recommendations

Conclusion

Whilst this is not an all-inclusive listing, the work of the Council can be followed through our meeting minutes that are posted on the MHAC portal on the MHC website.

The Council thanks the outgoing Minister for Mental Health, Hon Andrea Mitchell MLA for the opportunity she has given us to help shape the future dimensions of mental health in Western Australia.

We welcome the Hon Roger Cook MLA the recently appointed Minister for Mental Health and look forward to our continuing work in improving the services provided to people with a mental illness, their families and carers.



Barry MacKinnon
CHAIR
Mental Health Advisory Council
8 September 2017