

The Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs – System Leadership Forum was held on 28 October 2020, hosted by the [Sustainable Health Review](#) (SHR) Strategy 2 Co-Leads, Jennifer McGrath, Mental Health Commissioner, and Liz MacLeod, Chief Executive East Metropolitan Health Service.

Five key priority projects under the SHR were identified for in-depth discussions at the Forum. Attendees were invited to provide feedback on the projects to inform and progress their future direction. They were:

- **Young People Priority Framework**

In response to growing community concerns and expectations of urgent action, the Mental Health Commission (MHC) is developing a [Young People Priority Framework](#). (YPPF), which will provide the sector with a framework to support and respond to the mental health and alcohol and other drug (AOD) needs of young people aged 12 to 24 years. The YPPF will inform the development of new initiatives for investment and consideration by Government and new ways of working across existing services to achieve better outcomes for young people.

Valuable feedback was captured at the Forum on integration and coordination of mental health and AOD services; availability and accessibility of mental health and AOD treatment and supports which meet young people's needs in the right setting; that the diverse needs of young people are recognised; and that young people's experiences of accessing mental health and AOD services are improved regardless of race, religion, culture, sexuality, gender identity or social circumstance.

Forum feedback will inform the development of the YPPF and the YPPF Implementation Plan. The YPPF is planned to be completed and released by the end of 2020.

- **Roadmap for Community Service Emergency Response, Treatment and Support**

The MHC is developing an implementation plan and system roadmap that provides a clear vision of the community mental health and AOD treatment and emergency response services (the Roadmap) that will best meet the needs of people in WA. The Roadmap will provide clarity on how current services could be optimised, reconfigured, enhanced or expanded, as well as identifying where new services may be required.

The draft Terms of Reference for the development of the Roadmap was provided at the Forum for discussion. Amendments suggested at the Forum have been incorporated and it is progressing through governance arrangements for endorsement.

There was a lot of interest in this project from Forum attendees, and it was recognised that the Roadmap represents a significant opportunity to reform critical community-based parts of the sector. The primary focus of discussions was on current issues being experienced across the system in this space and the types of consumer cohorts that will need to be considered for the Roadmap. Discussions also highlighted the need for extensive consultation to develop the Roadmap. The discussions will inform the project plan and scope for the project.



- **WA Suicide Prevention Framework 2021-2025**



The [Western Australian Suicide Prevention Framework 2021 - 2025](#) provides a coordinated approach to address suicide prevention activity in Western Australia from 2021 to 2025 under the four streams of Prevention/Early Intervention, Support/Aftercare, Postvention and Aboriginal people. The Forum ‘unpacked’ how the MHC can facilitate a coordinated and whole-of-community response to suicide prevention, focusing on the first three streams.

Participants were asked how they are currently contributing to the Framework’s outcomes.

There was robust discussion and a significant number of activities and suggestions were captured, which are currently being reviewed to assist with the development of governance groups for the three priority streams.

To address the fourth stream, planning has already commenced to facilitate the development of a Western Australian Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Strategy with regional plans, that prioritises a culturally secure Social and Emotional Wellbeing approach to suicide prevention.

- **Forensic Services**

The [WA State Priorities Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs 2020-2024](#), SHR and the [Review of the Clinical Governance of Public Mental Health Services in Western Australia 2019](#) highlighted the need for additional forensic mental health services. By mid-2021, it is projected that the Frankland Centre, the dedicated forensic mental health unit, will no longer have beds available for acutely unwell prisoners who need to access responsive mental health and AOD care in hospital. Appropriate models of community care in general and forensic mental health services and diversion programs will ease the demand on forensic services.

Forum attendees raised a range of considerations for future forensic services including: workforce capacity and capability; the need for person centred, holistic, and recovery focused services; continuity of care where services should follow people through the justice system to keep relationships and provide continuous care and support; trauma informed care; integrated services; and the need for prevention and early intervention at each stage in the journey of the justice system.

Forum feedback will be considered in the development of models of care and support that are needed to build responsive, connected and comprehensive forensic mental health services.

- **Workforce Strategic Framework**

The [Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Workforce Strategic Framework 2020-2025](#) was launched at the Forum. Forum participants discussed what success would look like; the barriers and enablers to building the capacity and capability of the mental health, AOD and other complementary workforces; and priority actions to support implementation of the Framework. Participants highlighted several common themes across all sector workforces and identified a range of priority actions for implementation, with a focus on expanding the peer workforce; enhancing workforce training to better manage the complexities of mental illness in the delivery of care; providing safe and supportive environments for staff; and providing quality, contemporary care.

The feedback generated through the workshop will assist with developing the [implementation plan for the Workforce Strategic Framework](#) and inform the MHC’s work with stakeholders to build the capacity and capability of the mental health and AOD workforce. The MHC will also be providing support to other agencies who wish to develop their own implementation plans.