

WA the State of Wellbeing!

Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs – System Leadership Forum - 28 October 2020

COMMUNIQUE

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. The [Sustainable Health Review](#) (SHR) prioritises the delivery of quality, patient-centred healthcare across the State.

The Forum brought together 150 champions from across the mental health and alcohol and other drugs (AOD) sector, which included clinicians, consumers, carers, executives and representatives from peak bodies, to discuss how to lead sector reform in Western Australia.



The Honourable Roger Cook MLA, Deputy Premier; Minister for Health; Mental Health, officially opened the Forum by thanking the sector for all of its hard work in supporting the community and having a positive impact on people's lives. The Minister spoke about the outcomes of the [Review of the Clinical Governance of Public Mental Health Services in Western Australia 2019](#), including the establishment of the Mental Health Executive Committee (MHEC), the Community Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Council (CMC), the Chief Medical Officer - Mental Health and the appointment of Dr Sophie Davison to this role.

The Minister congratulated the sector on its recent achievements and upcoming projects, and confirmed the need to work in partnership in order to progress the [WA State Priorities Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs 2020 - 2024](#) (the WA State Priorities). The State Priorities include [29 key system priority areas](#) that underpin the SHR Strategy 2. These priorities and initiatives have been developed to focus all efforts on the most important system reform outcomes. The Minister charged attendees with taking carriage of building a better mental health and alcohol and other drug system for all.

The [WA Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Workforce Strategic Framework: 2020-2025](#) was released with an [investment of \\$1.2 million](#) to improve the sector workforce capacity across these priority areas. This funding will support important workforce initiatives identified by peak bodies, service providers, stakeholders, consumers and carers and covers key focus areas, including building a vibrant peer workforce; growing aboriginal culturally secure services; building capacity in trauma-informed care; and providing reliable employment pathways.

The Strategy 2 Co-Leads finished the opening with a welcome that detailed the project planning and implementation underway to improve services. Also highlighted was the importance of listening to the voices of lived experience and ensuring a range of purposeful and respectful collaboration opportunities. The importance of leadership and partnership across the mental health and AOD sector was also highlighted to encourage all system partners to work together to achieve reform.





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The Minister joined in for the first activity of the day, where Forum participants were tasked with developing their vision for the Western Australian mental health and AOD sector in 2025 based on the successful delivery of the WA State Priorities. The activity generated passionate discussion about what a world class mental health and AOD system would look like, with the Forum voting for “WA the State of Wellbeing” as the favourite headline, providing attendees with motivation for action towards 2025.

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
- WA Suicide Prevention Framework 2021-2025
- Forensic Services
- Workforce Strategic Framework 2020-2025
- Roadmap for Community Service Emergency Response, Treatment and Support

Further information regarding these projects, and the outcomes of the Forum discussions is available [here](#).

Both the [Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025](#) and the SHR have highlighted the importance of stakeholder engagement to successfully reform the mental health and AOD system. The Mental Health Commission (MHC) is seeking to respond to recent changes in system governance arrangements and ensure that the WA State Priorities are delivered in partnership between all relevant parties over the next four years.

Forum participants provided the MHC with valuable feedback related to stakeholder engagement, the existing [Working Together Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Engagement Framework 2018-2025](#) and its practical application to the new system context. This feedback will be incorporated into the MHC’s stakeholder engagement project to ensure that the MHC’s approach is tailored, effective and guided by strong principles from the 2018 Working Together framework.

The Forum was closed by the Honourable Alanna Clohesy MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier; Health; Mental Health, Jennifer McGrath and Liz MacLeod, who summarised the highlights of the forum and focused on their hope and vision for a mental health and AOD system that contributes to WA being the State of Wellbeing.



The MHC sincerely thanks all attendees for their contributions and support throughout the day.

There will be further opportunities to provide feedback into the planning and implementation of projects and initiatives linked to the WA State Priorities and SHR Strategy 2 work in the future. If you wish to learn more about the implementation of this work, or wish to provide further feedback on any aspect from the day, please email the MHC System Development team at SHR@mhc.wa.gov.au.

We look forward to keeping in touch with you!