



ADVICE TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR MENTAL HEALTH New Governance Arrangements and Moorditj Futures Program 14 September 2023

BACKGROUND

On 14 September 2023, the Mental Health Advisory Council (Council) received an update from the Mental Health Commission's Deputy Commissioner System Development, Julia Knapton regarding the outcomes of the Independent Review of WA Health System Governance (IGR). Ms Knapton highlighted the new governance arrangements as a result of these outcomes, particularly the introduction of a Lived Experience Advisory Group and a Clinical Advisory Group who shall report to the new overarching Mental Health, Alcohol and other Drug Wellbeing Joint Leadership Group and the Ministerial Advisory Panel.

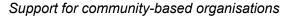
The Council also welcomed Moorditj Youth Foundation Aboriginal Corporation's Chief Executive Officer, Malcolm Jetta, who presented alongside Youth Support Officers Shontae Jetta and Cleve Humphries, on their new Moorditj Futures Program. The Moorditj Futures Program is designed to assist Moorditj Youth Foundation Aboriginal Corporation (MYFAC), WA Police and their partners to reduce the prevalence of Aboriginal youth related crime within the Wheatbelt community.

ADVICE/RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the information received during this meeting, the Council has provided the following advice:

New governance arrangements post IGR

- The Commission to affirm the strategic direction and contemporary recovery-oriented change management and structural approach, including the Aboriginal recruitment process for leadership positions within the new governance arrangements.
- In progressing the implementation of the new governance arrangements, the Commission to also ensure:
 - Culturally secure processes are used for recruiting appropriate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members. A successful culturally secure process was co-designed for recruitment of current Aboriginal members to the MHAC. Details of the process are outlined at: www.mhc.wa.gov.au/media/3015/advice-to-the-commissioner-aboriginal-or-torres-strait-islander-recruitment-process.pdf
 - o Inclusion of a diversity of alcohol and other drug (AOD) Lived Experience (Peer) expertise in the discussions regarding the governance of the AOD sector.
 - The high co-occurrence of Mental Health and AOD is captured to ensure that people accessing responses and services have access to co-occurring capable and competent services and representation within and across both sectors.
 - The design and development of the proposed Outcomes Framework includes a focus on culturally informed outcomes, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, CaLD and LGBTQIA+SB communities.



- Ensure the recognition and appropriate funding of programs that are proven to work.
- The tendering and contracting processes conducted by the Commission are culturally sensitive
 and appropriate for the services they provide, noting that it is critical that Aboriginal and Torres
 Strait Islander communities' requirements and needs are heard and responded to effectively.
- The importance of a cross-sector, social determinant approach was highlighted to effectively meet the social and emotional wellbeing needs of Aboriginal young people and adults.

Sincerely

Margaret Doherty

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CHAIRPERSON

Mental Health Advisory Council

27 September 2023