

Mental Health Act 2016 Implementation Newsletter

No. 6 – 27 June 2016

New web-page on its way ...

Welcome to our sixth edition

Keep an eye on our web-page. It will change shape soon as we work with the Department's Communications area to develop a format which better meets your information needs. The page will be topic based, easy to navigate and allow for a seamless transition of resource material once the Act commences.

State-wide Co-ordinator, Independent Patient Rights Adviser Network

We can announce that the State-wide Co-ordinator for the Independent Patient Right Adviser Network has been appointed. The successful applicant is Scott James. Scott has been in the Branch's Strategy, Planning & Partnerships Unit since 2012, after working in the Dept. of Communities, Child Safety & Disability Services. Scott aims to bring his experience in working on projects such as the Consumer Operated Service Project and the Housing & Support Program (HASP) to the IPRA Coordinator position.

"I'm grateful for this opportunity and looking forward to assisting in and implementing the reform accompanying this new initiative".

The initial focus of the Coordinator will be to support services to engage Independent Patient Right Advisers.



A message from Assoc. Prof John Allan, Chief Psychiatrist

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I have been able to attend a number of the authorised mental health service forums this month, as has Bill Kingswell. I found them very engaging, and a wide and varied range of issues were raised.

There were questions asked about the skill-set required for Independent Patient Right Advisers. A Position Description has been prepared and evaluated (AO7). There are no essential qualifications or background requirements. We will be looking for persons with strong communication skills, knowledge of the Act as it relates to patient rights, and the ability to support vulnerable persons.

Some forums asked about how training for emergency examination authorities will be rolled out in emergency departments, as it is not a mental health function under the new Act. I am having further discussions with the Chair of the Emergency Department Network about this, and will advise of the outcome shortly.

We will be developing a list of Frequently Asked Questions for our web-site once the road show is finished ”

Fact Sheets

We have just published our remaining fact sheets on the implementation web-site, bringing the total number of fact sheets to 29. Have a read of the latest:

- Classified patients
- Psychiatrist reports
- Mental Health Court
- Treatment Support Orders
- Rural and Remote Services
- Support for Victims
- Magistrates Court
- Mental Health Review Tribunal
- Chief Psychiatrist
- Transfer of Responsibility for Patients
- Transport and patients required to return to an AMHS
- Rural and Remote Services
- Treatment and Care of Minors
- Searches
- Persons with an Intellectual Disability

Consumer products and workshops

A number of information products are being developed for consumers, including:

- Guide to Patient Rights
- Statement of Rights
- Guide and Form for Advance Health Directives and Nominated Support Persons
- Brochure on Patient Rights
- Brochure on Advance Health Directives

We are working with a graphic designer on how to present the information and hope to focus-test them shortly.

Awareness training workshops for consumer and support persons in preparing advance health directives are also being considered.

Chief Psychiatrist Policies

The Act enables the Chief Psychiatrist to make Policies about a number of matters, including:

- Treatment Criteria and Assessment of Capacity
- Advance Health Directives and Less Restrictive Way of Treatment
- Right of a Patient to Request a Second Opinion
- Treatment and Care of Forensic and Other High Risk Patients
- Seclusion
- Notification of Critical Incidents to the Chief Psychiatrist

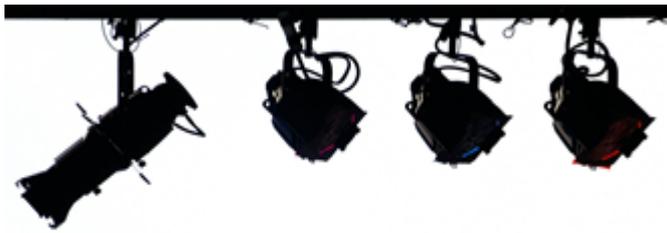
The Policies are binding on anyone performing a function under the Act.

Drafts of nineteen Chief Psychiatrist Policies have been prepared and circulated to key stakeholders for comment. All Policies will be published on our webpage when consultation is finished.

eLearning Package

The development of an e-Learning package for authorised doctors, authorised psychiatrists and authorised mental health practitioners is progressing well. Bushell and Cornish will facilitate small workshops with subject experts over the next two months to develop the module content.





Spotlight!

Video – Understanding the Act

We are coming to the end of our forums in authorised mental health services. Thirty forums will have been held by the end of June, with lots of interest generated in the new legislation. Thanks again to our AMHS champions and local contacts who have helped with the logistics.

A video PowerPoint presentation on the Act has been prepared and is available on our web-site. It includes an overview by Dr. Bill Kingswell and five modules.

The video is located at:

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/clinical-staff/mental-health/act/act-2016/understanding/default.asp>

Training in capacity and developing advanced health directives

The Queensland Centre for Mental Health Learning (QCMHL) has been engaged to develop training for authorised doctors and authorised mental health practitioners in assessing capacity. The package will also train doctors in developing advanced health directives with consumers. These are key aspects of the new legislation and it is essential that clinicians upgrade their skills in these areas.

Service agreements

The service agreements for Hospital and Health Services include funding for the expanded Court Liaison Service and for Independent Patient Right Advisers. A total of \$6.4M has been allocated for the expanded Court Liaison Service and \$4.1M for the Independent Patient Right Advisers. All funding is recurrent.

Feedback please!

What would you like to be included in future editions of the eNewsletter or on the [web-site](#)?

Feel free to contact the Team with any questions at MHA.Review@health.qld.gov.au