

Mental Health Act 2016 Implementation Newsletter

No. 2 – 15 March 2016

Thank you!

Welcome to our second edition.

We sent our first newsletter out three weeks ago and received a great response. Many of you provided positive feedback, and lots of people asked to be added to our distribution list. Thank you for your support. It's great to know the information is useful.

We are now sending the newsletter to over 350 individuals and organisations. Please pass it on to anyone you think may be interested.

We have a webpage!

We're pleased to say we now have a webpage!

We have started publishing information on the web-page to help you understand the new Act. We will progressively add to this during the implementation period.

The webpage includes a link to the Act as passed by the Parliament, the Explanatory Notes for the Act, and other useful documents, including:

- a factsheet which provides a succinct overview of the Mental Health Act 2016, and
- a comparative table which outlines the key differences and similarities between the current Act and the new Act.

Have a look and tell us what you think.

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

Suggestions can be emailed to MHA.Review@health.qld.gov.au



A message from Assoc. Prof John Allan, Chief Psychiatrist

“ Throughout the review of the Mental Health Act 2000, we placed a lot of emphasis on communication. We had three rounds of public consultation and held countless workshops, forums and meetings. I was particularly pleased at the positive feedback I received as we worked our way through the issues, especially when we were able to take on stakeholder suggestions or come up with solutions to complex problems raised by stakeholders.

We will continue this approach as we move into implementation of the Mental Health Act 2016.

I am very pleased at the positive response to the first Newsletter. We will aim to keep providing quality information to you over the coming months. We will be progressively putting information on the web-site – so be patient and hopefully you will find what you are looking for. If not – give us feedback.

It is good that you are asking questions about the Act. What do I need to know about the new Act? What do I need to do as part of implementing the new Act? Our aim is to assist you to answer these types of questions.

”

Mental Health Act Implementation Committee Update

The Mental Health Act Implementation Committee met again on 3 March 2016 to discuss progress against the 12 implementation work streams. The Committee was pleased to note that most of the key implementation activities are on track.

The Committee also considered a draft Education, Training and Information Plan, which was informed by stakeholder discussions at the beginning of the year.

The Implementation Committee also proposed we have an initial 'roadshow' to authorised mental health services in May/June to ensure key information about the new Act is reaching those who need to implement it. We will provide more information about this in our next newsletter.

Watch this space

We are developing *A Guide to the Mental Health Act 2016*, to help people to gain a detailed understanding of the Act.

The Guide summarises the areas of the Act which are most likely to be of interest to a reader. It also references provisions in the Act, for those who want to refer to the legislation for a more detailed understanding.

The Guide will be published on our webpage shortly.

We are also drafting a range of factsheets to assist consumers, carers, clinicians and others to understand aspects of the Act which are of direct relevance to them.

We think we'll end up with about 25 factsheets. Topics will include:

- the rights of patients, family, carers and other support persons
- examinations and assessments
- emergency examination authorities
- advanced health directives
- restricted practices (such as seclusion)
- regulated treatments (such as electroconvulsive therapy)
- the role of the Chief Psychiatrist
- forensic disability issues

- the treatment and care of minors
- the role of the Mental Health Court
- the role of the Mental Health Review Tribunal
- Magistrates Court powers

Factsheets will be published on our webpage, as we complete them.

When will the Act commence?

The department is working towards a commencement of the Act in November 2016. However, this is a matter for the government to decide over the coming months. We will advise you once a date has been set.



Spotlight!

Court Liaison Workshop

The Mental Health Act Implementation Team will conduct a number of forums and workshops with stakeholders in the coming months to promote effective implementation of the new Act.

On 14 March, we held a workshop in Brisbane to discuss the revised powers of magistrates under the Act and the enhancement of the Court Liaison Service in Queensland Health.

The workshop was attended by participants from a broad range of organisations, including legal agencies, consumer and advocacy groups, government agencies, magistrates and the Queensland Mental Health Commission.

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 or a request to unsubscribe, at MHA.Review@health.qld.gov.au