

Mental Health Act 2016 Implementation Newsletter

No. 10 – 21 December 2016

Seasons Greetings!

Welcome to our tenth edition

It's been a big year - we've come a long way!

Thank you for your support and participation throughout the year.

With only 9 weeks to commencement of the Act when we return from the Christmas break, we will have a busy and exciting start to the New Year.

We look forward to working with you in 2017.



eLearning highlights

Since going live in mid-November, 575 people have completed the eLearning course and have had certificates issued (as at 16 December). This represents about 20 percent of authorised doctors and authorised mental health practitioners. This is a solid start, and we look forward to the numbers increasing in early 2017.

Overall, participants rate the course **very highly**:

- Excellent – 20.1 percent
- Very good – 51.4 percent
- Satisfactory – 22.9 percent
- Less than satisfactory – 4.5 percent
- Poor – 1.1 percent



A message from Assoc Prof John Allan, A/Executive Director MHAODB

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In early 2017, we will be having local implementation discussions with each authorised mental health service. A schedule of visits to each service is being finalised. Either myself or Suneel Chamoli (Acting Chief Psychiatrist) will be at each visit, along with other Branch staff. The purpose of the visits is to discuss key implementation issues and concerns with senior staff. This will also assist us to refine our implementation activities as necessary.

Have a safe and happy holiday break.”



What participants are saying about the eLearning course?

We have received some very positive feedback from participants:

"This is an outstanding course and is far more interesting than sitting reading information sheets. The quiz accessibility etc. is great. It is a useful preparation tool and pulls things together much better than trying to read the Act blind. Well done---I'll keep reviewing to refresh my knowledge"

"This is the best MHA course I have done so far"



However, we received a number of comments that some questions were "tricky" or "ambiguous". We can assure you that we are not trying to trick you! Please read each question carefully before answering. All questions directly relate to material in the modules. If you have concerns about specific questions, please identify the particular question in the e-Learning feedback.

For those who have done the course, the time taken to complete has reduced to about 5 hours for the authorised doctor course and 4 hours for the authorised mental health practitioner course.

The course is now available to all Queensland Health employees, as well as to private AMHS. We will make it readily accessible to the general public early in the New Year. Instructions on how to access the course, and where to get help if needed, are on our website.



Spotlight!

Consumer training in completion of advance health directives (AHD)



We are very pleased to announce that we have signed a service agreement with Aged and Disability Advocacy Australia (ADA Australia) to provide training to consumers on the completion of an AHD. ADA have worked previously with Queensland Advocacy Incorporated (QAI) on advance health directives and so are well placed to do this work.

ADA Australia will develop a number of consumer-friendly educational resources, including a video which will provide step-by-step instructions on how to complete the AHD form. Over 30 training sessions will be delivered around the State during 2017.

A steering committee has been established to guide this work with representation from ADA Australia, Queensland Voice, ARAFMI Queensland, Carers Queensland and QAI. Access to networks through these groups will be invaluable in organising consumer training sessions and will help ensure regional areas are well represented.

AMHS contact forum

Our final AMHS contact forum was held on 30 November 2016 and was well attended. We would like to thank Wide Bay and Gold Coast for their informative presentations on progress towards implementation in their respective HHS.

The group discussion session provided an opportunity for AMHS to raise any issues or concerns they have as we move towards commencement.

Our thanks to everyone who has attended the AMHS forums throughout the year. Your participation and support has been appreciated.

Independent Patient Rights Advisers (IPRA)

IPRA recruitment processes are progressing across services. A number of HHS's have advertised the role, including:

- Central Queensland
- Wide Bay
- Sunshine Coast
- Darling Downs
- Gold Coast HHS
- Children's Health Queensland

Metro South and Metro North HHSs are working together to obtain IPRA services from the non-government sector. The tender was advertised on 1 December and closed on 15 December 2016.

State-wide IPRA training will take place in Brisbane on **2-3 February 2017**.

Please contact Scott James, State-wide IPRA Coordinator, if you have any questions on the training.



Mental Health Act amendments

The Minister for Health has introduced a short Mental Health Amendment Bill 2016 into the Parliament to amend the Mental Health Act 2016. Subject to Parliamentary processes, it is intended that the Bill pass before the commencement of the *Mental Health Act 2016* on 5 March 2017.

The primary purpose of the Bill is to ensure that statements made by a person who is the subject of an assessment by the Court Liaison Service, or during an examination under an examination order made by a magistrate, cannot be used in evidence against the person.

The Government has also taken the opportunity to make some minor and technical amendments to the Act that have been identified during implementation. These amendments include:

- enabling a clinical director to extend seclusion while a reduction and elimination plan is being prepared, rather than a senior medical administrator
- enabling any health practitioner to be an 'authorised person' for the purpose of transport, rather than just authorised doctors and authorised mental health practitioners
- enabling authorised doctors and authorised mental health practitioners to authorise the return of absent patients, in addition to administrators
- clarifying that, in calculating the limit of 9 hours in a 24 hour period for the use of seclusion and mechanical restraint, previous actual periods of seclusion and mechanical restraint are to be used, rather than previous periods of authorisations
- placing specific limits on the period a person can be detained for an examination under an examination authority (6 hours - which can be extended up to 12 hours - if in an AMHS or public sector health service facility; otherwise - up to 1 hour)
- ensuring that the Act applies for employees of private AMHSs, for example, in delegating powers and functions.

We will keep you posted on Parliament's consideration of the Bill.

Consumer and carer resources

We are in the process of finalising a suite of documents for consumers and carers, including the:

- Statement of Rights
- Advance health directive guide and form
- Nominated support person guide and form

All these resources have been focus-group tested with consumers and support groups, and the graphic design of these documents has been completed. The documents will be available on-line early in January.

Emergency examination authorities – Resources for emergency department staff

A number of resources have been developed to assist emergency department staff to understand the requirements for emergency examination authorities under the Public Health Act.

These are available on the Queensland Emergency Department Strategic Advisory Panel (QEDSAP) webpage:

<http://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/caru/networks/qedsap/eea.htm>

Please ensure that these resources are brought to the attention of relevant staff.



Feedback please!

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

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