

# Mental Health Act 2016 Implementation Newsletter

No. 13 – 30 March 2017

## *Farewell!*

This will be the final Mental Health Act Implementation Newsletter. Thanks for your interest!

The Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch will ensure that services and external stakeholders are kept advised of key developments in relation to the Act. The Branch is now in the process of establishing a comprehensive evaluation framework for the new Act, including key initiatives relating to the Magistrates Court, Independent Patient Rights Advisers and Advance Health Directives. We will keep you informed of the development of the framework and the outcome of evaluations over time.



### *A message from Assoc Prof John Allan, Executive Director MHAODB*



I am pleased that the feedback I have received to date is that the implementation of the Act since 5 March 2017 has generally gone well. I am well aware that services are working very hard to effectively implement the new Act.

I have met with the President of the Mental Health Review Tribunal to discuss the time-frames for providing clinical reports for Tribunal hearings, and the number of adjournments that have occurred since the Act commenced. I am particularly concerned about the adverse effects an adjournment may have on the patient when the patient is present, legally represented or accompanied by a support person, and wishes to proceed with the hearing.

To meet the requirements of the Act, it is very important that services provide reports at least 7 clear days before the relevant hearing. This will reduce the risk of matters being adjourned. In conjunction with the Tribunal, I will monitor data on the time-frames for providing clinical reports and the frequency of adjournments.



## Consumer workshops on completing an Advance Health Directive (AHD)

Consumer workshops, provided by ADA Australia and QAI, are being organised across the state. Please see flyers attached for workshops at West Moreton and Gold Coast.

Please note these workshops are for consumers and support persons only.

Consumers and support persons can register their interest in attending or seek further information by contacting [guardianship2@adaaustralia.com.au](mailto:guardianship2@adaaustralia.com.au).

ADA and QAI are developing a range of resources for consumers including a video, which provides step by step instructions on completing an AHD and booklet for further information.

These resources will be available on the ADA and QAI websites shortly.



## Public Access to eLearning

We have now arranged general public access to the eLearning package.

Please see instructions below for access to the **eLearning package for individuals who are not an employee of Queensland Health**

- Go to **Registration Form - [External access](#)**
- Click on "I do not have an iLearn@QHealth username and password"
- Click on "Mental Health Act (Non Queensland Health employee)"
- Click on "Register"

Complete details and click on "Submit"

# Spotlight!

## Independent Patient Rights Advisers (IPRA)



The Independent Patient Rights Advisers (IPRAs) are working closely with patients, families, carers and other support persons and their treating teams. The IPRA network has presented a range of good news stories of rights advisers assisting the various stakeholders during the implementation of the new *Mental Health Act 2016*. These good news stories include a range of examples of patients being treated in a less restrictive way by having their Statutory Health Attorneys involved in their treatment and / or the development of Advance Health Directives.

The IPRAs are continuing to provide presentations to the consumer / carer groups and treating teams outlining their roles and the associated processes for the delivery of their services. The IPRAs are also linking with their local community organisations, including community managed mental health services, community legal centres and advocacy services.

## Translation of consumer documents

The Statement of Rights for patients of mental health services and three brochures (Your rights; Advance health directives; Support persons) are being translated into ten languages and will be uploaded to our website over the next couple of weeks.

## 'Your Rights' poster

A new 'Your Rights' poster designed specifically for children and young people has been prepared and will be available on our website shortly.

A copy of the poster is attached. Three 'Your Rights' posters for adults are available on the [consumer resources](#) section of our webpage.

## Professional printing of consumer resources

All services will have received promotional packs of the consumer resources over the last few weeks.

If you would information on getting more consumer resources printed, please contact Scott James, Statewide IPRA Coordinator, on [Scott.James2@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Scott.James2@health.qld.gov.au) or tel. 3328 9243.

## A final thank you from the Implementation Team

It's been a long road but we got there! Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the implementation of the Act.

It would not have been possible without the assistance of our AMHS champions, governance groups, services across the state, and the consumers and other stakeholders who contributed their time to assist in the many implementation activities. The assistance and support we have received has been invaluable and much appreciated.



## Have a question on the new Act?

For AMHS staff with questions about the Act, please speak to your local implementation coordinator.

If the question cannot be answered locally, your coordinator can escalate any issues to the Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch on [MHA2016@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:MHA2016@health.qld.gov.au) or 3328 9899.

Questions from external stakeholders can be directed to this email address and phone number also.