

Mental Health Act 2016 Implementation Newsletter

No. 4 – 06 May 2016

Working with you

Welcome to our fourth edition.

If all goes according to plan, we have less than 6 months to go before the new Act commences! It's getting busy and interest is growing, with regular requests to be added our distribution list. Please continue to forward this newsletter to anyone who you think may benefit. We have a way to go yet and lots to share with you.

A new landing page!

You will have noticed our implementation webpage has a lengthy URL, which can be difficult to remember and hard to find. Our communications area has solved this by building a landing page which takes you straight to our information. The landing page is www.health.qld.gov.au/mental-health-act

eLearning Package Workshop

The Implementation Team has recently contracted an experienced provider to develop an eLearning Package on the *Mental Health Act 2016*.

The Package will deliver modularised, online training for authorised doctors and authorised mental health practitioners, and will include assessment to ensure practitioners can demonstrate the competencies required to be an authorised practitioner.

The project will involve significant stakeholder engagement, commencing with a workshop in Brisbane on Wednesday 11 May 2016.

We will report on the outcomes of this workshop and the progress of the eLearning Package in future editions of the newsletter.



A message from Assoc. Prof John Allan, Chief Psychiatrist



I was pleased to participate in the Mental Health Senior Leaders Forum this week. The Forum comprises Clinical and Executive Directors in authorised mental health services.

One issue that was raised was how the implementation work in the Mental Health Branch will connect with the implementation work in each authorised mental health service.

This will be an important item for discussion when the AMHS contacts get together on 25 May (see article below). The Branch will provide lots of resource material for implementation and will lead other critical pieces of work, such developing an e-Learning module for authorised doctors and authorised mental health practitioners. The challenge for services is to ensure the message gets to all staff, and that clinical practices and business processes are amended accordingly.



Fact Sheets

In our March edition we said we were writing Fact Sheets to help you understand aspects of the Act which are of direct relevance to you. Our list of possible fact sheets keeps growing – 30 at last count. The good news is we've recently published seven completed fact sheets on our implementation webpage.

- Objects and Principles
- Examination and Assessments
- Emergency Examination Authorities
- Examination Authorities
- Treatment Authorities
- Patient Rights
- Rights of Family, Carers and Other Support Persons

Watch this space – we will continue to publish fact sheets here as we complete them.

Education, Training and Information Plan

Thank you to all who have contributed to the development of the Education, Training and Information Plan for the new Act. The Inter-Departmental Executive Committee recently considered the plan and we have now published it on our web page. This Plan will guide our education, training and information activities over the coming months.

You may want to keep an eye out for material referred to in the Plan - we hope to publish more documents in the coming weeks.



Spotlight!

Hospital and Health Services Road Show

The Implementation Team will soon be travelling to Hospital and Health Services to talk to staff about the new Act.

Forums will be held in each HHS across May and June to provide an overview of the new Act, including key similarities and differences between the current Act and the new Act. The forums will also provide staff with an opportunity to examine and discuss what they need to do locally to ensure they are ready when the Act commences.

The forums will be complemented by an automated PowerPoint presentation on the Act. We will publish the presentation on our webpage shortly.

Consumer based forums will be held later in the year.

Authorised Mental Health Services Forum

In early February representatives from all authorised mental health services met in Brisbane to discuss implementation arrangements for the new Act. Participants agreed at this time that it would be useful to convene another forum once implementation work had progressed.

A lot of progress has been made since this first forum and it is now time to meet again. Authorised mental health service representatives will gather in Brisbane on Wednesday 25 May 2016 to discuss what needs to be done, at a local level, to support successful implementation. We will report on the outcomes of this forum in a future edition of the newsletter.



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

Statewide Co-ordinator for Independent Patient Rights Advisers

You are no doubt aware that the new Act requires Hospital and Health Services to appoint one or more Independent Patient Rights Advisers (IPRAs) to advise patients and their nominated support persons, family, carers and other support persons of their rights under the Act. To ensure we develop a strong, skilled network of advisers, a Statewide Co-ordinator will be employed to support these positions.

The State wide Co-ordinator's responsibilities will include:

- co-ordinating a Statewide network of IPRAs, including initial and ongoing training
- providing IPRAs with advice on provisions of the Act that relate to patient rights
- resolving major concerns about patient rights identified by IPRAs
- advising and consulting with IPRAs on performing their functions under the Act, and
- assisting the chief psychiatrist in ensuring compliance with the Act and protecting the rights of patients and support persons.

The Co-ordinator will be employed within the Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch of the Department of Health and will report directly to the Chief Psychiatrist.

The Department will be advertising for this position shortly. Please keep an eye on the Queensland Government Smart jobs webpage if you are interested in the role.