

Mental Health Act 2016 Implementation Newsletter

No. 5 – 3 June 2016

We're on the road!

Welcome to our fifth edition.

The Implementation Team is currently out and about - visiting authorised mental health services to explain the new Act and answer lots of questions. Keep up the interest!

This is a mammoth exercise. Over 6 weeks we will hold 30 forums across our 16 Hospital and Health Services. A big thanks to all our AMHS colleagues who have helped with the logistics – your assistance has been invaluable.

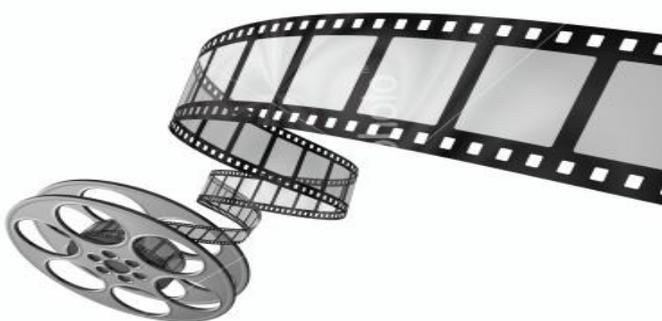
Please be assured we haven't forgotten our other stakeholders! Forums for consumers and support persons will be organised later in the year when our information products are further developed.

Understanding the *Mental Health Act 2016* Presentation

Last month we published a PowerPoint video, *Understanding the Mental Health Act 2016*, on our webpage.

The video provides an overview of the Act in an easy-to-listen format, and is presented in modules so you can listen to separate modules at different times.

While the video has been prepared to assist staff of our Authorised Mental Health Services to understand the new Act, it may also be of interest to other stakeholders. Please take the time to view the presentation on our [webpage](#).



A message from Assoc. Prof John Allan, Chief Psychiatrist

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I am currently chairing a selection panel for the Independent Patient Rights Adviser Co-ordinator position. The Co-ordinator will report directly to me and will be responsible for managing a network of 28 Independent Patient Rights Advisers throughout the State.

Independent Patient Rights Advisers will work collaboratively with patients, support persons and treating teams in the interests of patients' rights. Advisers will be able to escalate concerns to the Co-ordinator and myself if needed.

This is an exciting initiative in the new legislation, and I am confident that it will not only improve access to patient rights in practice, but will also improve the care and recovery of patients.

I will advise you of the selection outcome in due course. After this time, I expect Hospital and Health Services to commence engaging Advisers within the Service (but not in the mental health service) or in an appropriate non-government organisation.”

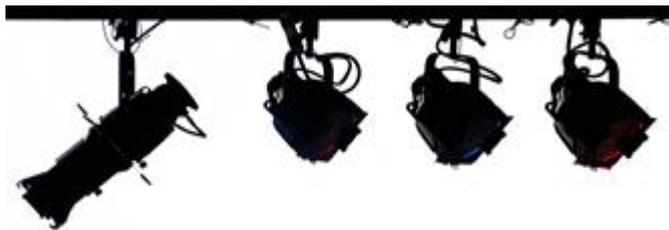
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Fact Sheets

Last edition we told you we had published the first seven of up to 30 fact sheets on the new Act. I'm pleased to say we have recently added six more:

- Restrictive Practices
- Regulated Treatments
- Treatment in the Community
- Advance health directives and less restrictive way of treatment
- Role of nominated support persons
- Role of independent patient rights advisers

Watch this space - we hope to have all fact sheets published on our webpage by the end of June.



Transitional provisions

When new legislation commences, we need to have 'transitional provisions' to outline what happens to things (such as orders, authorities and processes) under the old Act (once it is repealed) when the new Act commences. For example, if a person is on an involuntary treatment order under the old Act, the person continues on a treatment authority under the new Act. A summary of key transitional provisions has been published on our webpage. This will mainly be of interest to persons administering the Act.

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

Spotlight!

AMHS Forum

On 25 May 2016, the Implementation Team held a second forum for representatives of Hospital and Health Services and the Private Hospitals Association of Queensland to discuss implementation arrangements for the Act.

The Forum included an update on implementation activities managed within the Branch and an overview of the eLearning Project for the new Act, which will enable authorised practitioners to achieve the required competencies under the new Act.

Most of the day was spent discussing how services will plan for and support implementation locally. Information, education and training were key areas of interest. Representatives have a pivotal role to play in these areas – championing activity, facilitating engagement, and ensuring that services are ready to work under the new Act.

Representatives agreed there was a need for more information in certain areas, including transitional provisions, the powers which can be delegated under the Act and the powers of authorised security officers.

Representatives also discussed how to train administrators and administrator delegates on their responsibilities under the Act and agreed a face to face workshop for each group was preferable.

The workshop for administrators will occur first, to allow administrators sufficient time to guide and develop local procedures and governance processes. The workshop for administrator delegates will follow, once procedures are completed.