

Mental Health Act 2016 Implementation Newsletter

No. 7 – 18 August 2016

Frequently Asked Questions???

Welcome to our seventh edition



Frequently asked questions

The Implementation Team gathered a number of excellent 'Frequently Asked Questions' (FAQs) while visiting authorised mental health services in June/July to explain the new Act.

Do you know the answer to these example FAQs?

- *What is the process for reviewing existing ITOs when the new Act commences?*
- *Is there a timeframe for capacity being considered stable for the purpose of revoking a treatment authority?*
- *Does the identity of the concerned person who applies for an Examination Authority remain confidential?*
- *Does an allied person become a nominated support person?*

Responses to the FAQs have been developed and will be loaded onto our website shortly.

The FAQs are highly relevant and we encourage you to have a read through them.



A message from Assoc. Prof Ed Heffernan, A/Chief Psychiatrist

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I very much valued the opportunity to participate in the recent forum held with QCMHL and other clinicians focused on developing training for assessing capacity, and preparing advance health directives.

This forum highlighted some of the progressive elements of the Mental Health Act 2016 including the enhanced focus on individual rights. Commensurate with these changes and the opportunities to strengthen rights is the responsibility of clinicians to ensure they are skilled in these areas.

It is for this reason that we are developing training for authorised doctors in assessing capacity. It will include scenarios to give the training a practical clinical application. The training will include an e-Learning component; this will be reinforced by clinician-based discussion. This training is currently under development and we will keep you up-to-date as the project progresses.”

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AMHS Contacts Forum – 26 August 2016

On 26 August 2016, the Implementation Team will hold a third forum with AMHS Contacts. The Forum will provide representatives with an opportunity to share information, ideas and planned activities for the implementation of the Act.

One of the key themes of the Forum will be – *How is Implementation Progressing in your AMHS?*

Administrator Training Workshop

To ensure AMHS Administrators understand their responsibilities under the new Act, a training workshop has been organised for Monday 17 October 2016.

This workshop will cover the responsibilities of administrators under the Act, including functions, powers, duties and delegations.

Further details for the workshop will be provided closer to the date.



Consumer products and workshops

We have previously advised that a number of information products are being developed for consumers, including the *Guide to Patient Rights*.

We are working with a graphic designer on how to present the information and hope to focus test them shortly.



Spotlight!

Welcome to Assoc. Prof Ed Heffernan

As many of you would be aware, Dr Bill Kingswell has decided to take up studies and has left his role of Executive Director. I would like to thank Bill for his contribution and leadership to the review of the Mental Health Act 2000 and the implementation of the new Act.

On behalf of the Branch, I would like to welcome Assoc. Prof Ed Heffernan to the role of A/Chief Psychiatrist while I am acting in the position of Executive Director.

Ed has held a number of senior positions in mental health including Director of Queensland Forensic Mental Health Services (QFMHS) and Associate Professor in Psychiatry at the University of Queensland. As Director of QFMHS, Ed has helped to lead the development and establishment of mental health programs to support those with mental health problems in contact with police, courts, watch houses and prisons.

Ed will be with us until early November.

Assoc. Prof John Allan

How to complete an Advance Health Directive

The Implementation Team recently met with key NGO stakeholders to discuss the development and delivery, by the NGO sector, of State-wide information workshops for mental health consumers and carers on how to complete an advance health directive.

The stakeholders strongly supported the proposal, and we have reached in-principle agreement on a way forward.

Further details will be provided as the project evolves.

Searches under the Act

Under the *Mental Health Act 2016*, particular persons are authorised to conduct searches of postal articles, patients and visitors to specific services. A summary document has been developed which outlines the types of searches, who can perform them and the circumstances in which they can be undertaken

The summary document will soon be published to our webpage and supplements information provided in the 'Searches' factsheet.

eLearning Package – Subject Matter Expert Workshops

The development of an e-Learning package for authorised doctors, authorised psychiatrists and authorised mental health practitioners is progressing well.

The organisation doing the work for us, Bushell and Cornish, will facilitate small workshops with subject experts over the next two months to develop the module content, particularly in the development of scenarios.

Consultation with Unions

We will attend a meeting of the Reform Consultative Group on 18 August 2016 to provide a brief overview of the new legislation to union representatives, and to provide advice on the training initiatives being undertaken by the Implementation Team.

While the Act is unlikely to have significant industrial issues, it is important that AMHSs also engage with local industrial representatives during the implementation process.

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