

4 February 2014

An Update from the new Mental Health Act Implementation Steering Committee

The Steering Committee continues to meet monthly to oversight implementation of the Act. Implementation initiatives are progressing well and on schedule thanks to the concerted effort of many stakeholders. The following update provides an overview of the Steering Committee's work to date, along with information about various implementation activities that are underway and that are planned for the coming weeks.

Commencement of the New Act

It was noted that the online version of the Act, available at www.thelaw.tas.gov.au, currently doesn't show the correct commencement date of 17 February 2014, or reflect amendments made by the *Mental Health (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2013*.

The Office of Parliamentary Counsel will make an updated version of the Act available online following the Act's commencement and any copies of the Act pre-dating this will need to be removed from circulation.

Statutory Appointments

The Department of Justice has announced the appointment of Yvonne Chaperon as the President of the Mental Health Tribunal under the *Mental Health Act 2013*.

Yvonne is a qualified legal practitioner and a registered nurse and has vast experience in health care having worked in public hospitals in both Tasmania and Victoria. Yvonne's most recent position was as the Assistant Federal Secretary of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation.

As Chair of the Steering Committee, and Acting Director of the Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Directorate, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Yvonne to the role. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Debra Rigby, President of the current Mental Health Tribunal, for her significant contribution to the development and implementation of the new Act.

Patient Statement of Rights

The development of three Patient Statement of Rights, for Involuntary Patients, Forensic Patients and patients who are secluded or restrained, as provided for under the new Act has progressed well, with the Legal Aid Commission, a Consumer Representative and Advocacy Tasmania all providing feedback into the document. The Statement of Rights have now been approved by the Chief Psychiatrist, and are currently in the process of being uploaded to the Mental Health Act website.

Information for Consumers, Carers and the Community

Fact sheets and other information specifically for consumers, carers and community sector organisations have been developed and uploaded to the website, with additional fact sheets to be uploaded over the next week. These can be accessed by clicking on the new Mental Health Act logo at www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/mentalhealth

Communications networks will continue to be utilised to promote access to these resources over the coming weeks. If you would like further information, or would like to include an article about the new *Mental Health Act 2013* in any upcoming publications to your networks, please contact MHADD's Senior Communications and Marketing Consultant Laura Banks on 6230 7809 or laura.banks@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Education and Training Resources

A number of flowcharts outlining different processes under the Act have now been completed and uploaded to the website, under Education and Training Resources.

As information, education and training resources are added to the public website these can be accessed by clicking on the new Mental Health Act logo at www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/mentalhealth

Training

A comprehensive training program for staff who will be applying the provisions of the new Act and for organisations representing consumers who receive treatment under the new Act is in full swing.

Project team members also continue to deliver training sessions to various groups across Mental Health Services, Forensic Mental Health Services, THO's, Tasmania Police, Ambulance Tasmania and to other key organisations representing consumers and playing an oversight role under the new Act.

Project team members are also supporting educators and trainers within clinical services and presentations continue to be available for trainers and educators and members of the general public online at www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/mentalhealth/mental_health_act Click on Education and Training Resources on the New Mental Health Act page.

Forms and Associated Documentation

All approved forms, clinical guidelines and standing orders are now available online at www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/mentalhealth.

Keeping Updated

The Project Team sends out an E-News Update when new or updated content is uploaded to the Mental Health Act website. If you would like to receive these updates, please subscribe by emailing mhact@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Upcoming Events Bulletin:

Consumer Information Session: The New Mental Health Act, What's Changing for You

All consumers of Mental Health Services are invited to attend this important discussion. Speakers from a range of services will be providing information on the new Act and answering your questions.

When: Friday, 7 February 2014

Where: Peacock Centre Meeting Room, 10 Elphinstone Road, North Hobart

Time: 12:00 – 2:00pm *Light lunch provided*

RSVP: Rosie Walker phone 6230 7819 or mhs.executiveassistant@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Questions? Call Miranda Ashby, Flourish on 6223 1952 or email admin@flourishtas.org.au

Further Information

Any queries about the implementation process or the new legislation can be directed to the Project Team via email: mhact@dhhs.tas.gov.au or phone 6230 7929.



Signed: Nick Goddard

Chair, New Mental Health Act Implementation Steering Committee/Acting Director, Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Directorate

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