

Rethink Mental Health Project: Progress Update Communiqué

16 March 2015



The Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Directorate continue to manage the Rethink Project, working in partnership with the Mental Health Council of Tasmania (MHCT).

How Has the Consultation Process Gone?

Consultation is a key component of the Rethink Mental Health Project. To facilitate the feedback process, a range of options have been available for stakeholders to participate and have their say. This has included stakeholder consultation forums, an online feedback form, submissions in response to the Discussion Paper, feedback via phone, email or writing to the project team.

The consultation period commenced on 10 October 2014 and closed on 28 February 2015; however the project team has continued to conduct targeted consultation throughout early March 2015.

To date, 39 stakeholder consultation forums have been held around the state and with varying stakeholder groups including consumers, carers/families, clinicians, community sector organisations and specific population groups.

These forums have provided a range of very valuable information about the issues with the current mental health service system, what is working well and areas for further development.

100 responses were received through the online feedback form; a small number of verbal submissions and written submissions were received from individual consumers and carers and 18 submissions were received from organisations.

What Are the Next Steps?

All information gathered through the consultation process will be analysed and will help inform the identified priorities that will form the basis of a long term plan for mental health in Tasmania.

An independent expert panel has been established, made-up of individuals with specific expertise in mental health including Tasmania's consumer and carer representatives on the National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum. The expert panel will contribute to the independent analysis of Tasmania's mental health service system consistent with the election commitment and will support the development of a long term plan for mental health in Tasmania.

How Can I Keep Updated?

If you want to receive regular updates on the progress of the Rethink Mental Health Project, send an email to rethink@dhhs.tas.gov.au with 'Subscribe to E-News' in the subject line.

Project Updates will also be available online at www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/rethink

Or you can call 03 6166 0777.