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To: <mhactreview@dhs.vic.gov.au>

Subject: Review of the Mental Health Act 1986 - submission

The following submission comes from one of the regular members of a GROW group.

Contact details

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Involuntary orders (Ch.3)

(b) When should people who are seriously mentally ill be able to be placed on an involuntary order under the new Act?

(c) How could the new Act improve ITOs and CTOs to better meet patients' needs?

CTO's to be reviewed every two weeks instead of every six and have a recovery/treatment focus and not just compliance to medication.

Patient participation (Ch.4) / Confidentiality and information sharing (Ch.10)

The Act should provide for information to be shared amongst Providers and amongst close family members, for the benefit of the patient.

Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) (Ch.5)

That the new act make provisions for all patients involuntary and voluntary to get a second opinion from a second opinion doctor independent of the mental health service and government departments as to whether ECT is the right treatment for them and what are the alternatives.

Restraint and seclusion (Ch.6)

(f) How should the new Act deal with restraint and seclusion?

Patients placed in seclusion should have 24 hour supervision and at some stage during seclusion it should be explained to them where they are, why they are in seclusion and how they can be released from seclusion.

Confidentiality and information sharing (Ch.10)

(j) When should patient information be shared with others?

With the patient's consent other agencies involved with the ongoing care of the patient such as self-help groups should be given information about the patient and should be recognised as having an on-going role in the patient's rehabilitation.

With good wishes.

John Pernu, Branch Program Coordinator  
GROW (Vic), GROW (Tas)