

Review of new arrangements for the delivery of Mental Health Community Support Services and Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services

Terms of Reference

Background and purpose of the review

The Victorian Government made an election commitment to address gaps that may have resulted from the recommissioning of mental health community support services and alcohol and drug treatment services. In July 2015, it was announced that an independent review would be undertaken to explore the functioning of the new arrangements, and to provide advice on the next steps in ensuring that the service system meets the needs of those with severe and persistent mental illness and those with addictions.

Objectives

To conduct an independent review of the recommissioned mental health community support and alcohol and drug treatment service system to:

- Identify what is working well with the new system
- Explore any gaps or issues with the new arrangements, and identify potential solutions to address these
- Listen to clients, carers, service providers and referrers about how the functioning of the system can be further improved
- Identify where further work may be required to address any outstanding system functioning or implementation issues
- Provide a basis for future planning and strategic service development, including but not limited to development of the new ten-year mental health plan and preparation for transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Methodology

The review will include two components:

1. Consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including service users and their families, peak bodies, service providers and referrers; and

2. Analysis of available data to determine current system performance across all 16 catchments for both mental health community support services and adult non-residential drug treatment services.

The review will adopt a common overarching process for both the mental health and drug treatment sectors whilst ensuring that the different contexts, themes, issues, and funded activities pertinent to each sector are explicitly addressed.

Scope

The focus of the review is on the functionality of the new arrangements not on revisiting the process or outcomes of the recommissioning itself.

For mental health community support services, the review will examine individualised client support packages, intake assessment and youth residential rehabilitation. *(Note: Adult residential rehabilitation, supported accommodation, mutual support and self-help programs, planned respite and the aboriginal program are out of scope).*

For alcohol and drug treatment, the review will examine adult community non-residential services including the intake and assessment function. *(Note: Residential, youth, Aboriginal community health organisation controlled services and a range of other state-wide services are out of scope).*

Opportunities for engagement

The consultation will seek broad input from service users, their families and carers, peak bodies, and service providers, as well as referrers and interfacing service sectors such as clinical mental health services.

A variety of consultation methods will be used to maximise participation in the review. These include consultation forums (metropolitan and regionally based), an on-line confidential feedback form and a dedicated email address to provide written feedback.

The review team will work with relevant consumer and carer bodies to design processes for service user engagement that is tailored to their needs.

Further Information

The contact details for the consultants are as follows:

Project Lead:

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An email address has also been set up especially for the review: survey@aspexconsulting.com.au