



The Royal  
Australian &  
New Zealand  
College of  
Psychiatrists



Queensland Branch

15 June 2020

Committee Secretary  
Health, Communities, Disability Services and  
Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

By email to: [health@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:health@parliament.qld.gov.au)

To the Committee Secretary

**Re: Inquiry into the Queensland Government's health response to COVID-19**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to the Inquiry. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) Queensland Branch would like to commend the Queensland Government's health response to COVID-19.

The RANZCP is the principal organisation representing the medical specialty of psychiatry in Australia and New Zealand and is responsible for training, educating and representing psychiatrists in policy issues. The RANZCP's Queensland Branch comprises 852 Fellows and 317 trainees.

Our membership views the Queensland Government's health response as positive and timely, noting the \$28M commitment made to mental health and drug and alcohol services was quickly distributed to NGO partners and led to the expansion of critical services to be open seven days a week.

The RANZCP Queensland Branch also wishes to congratulate the Government on the quality of communication from Queensland Health. This includes the weekly teleconferences organised by the Mental Health Commission to bring together NGOs, health services, PHNs and clinical directors on the COVID-19 mental health impact. These meetings continue to be useful in keeping stakeholders updated on developments related to the pandemic and the Government's response.

The Queensland Government's commitment to providing updates to the public through consistent and clear messaging based on medical advice has also played a key role in helping the community deal with the concerns and uncertainties of the pandemic especially during quarantine.



However, we would like to emphasise that the effects of COVID-19 on the mental health of our community are still relatively unknown and the Government should be prepared to make further investment to monitor and collect data to inform policy which can effectively address its impact.

To discuss any of the issues raised in this letter, please contact Amelia Rhodes, Policy Manager (Branches), Practice, Policy and Partnerships Department via [REDACTED] or by phone on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "BE", written over a horizontal line.

Professor Brett Emmerson AM  
**Chair, RANZCP Queensland Branch Committee**