

The Honourable Mark McArdle  
Member for Caloundra



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Leanne Linard MP Chairman  
Health and Ambulance Services Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Chairman,

Consideration of the Mental Health (Recovery Model) Bill 2015 and Mental Health Bill 2015

On 5 May 2015 I introduced the Mental Health (Recovery Model) Bill 2015 into the Queensland Parliament as a Private Members' Bill. Subsequently on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015, the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, the Hon. Cameron Dick MP introduced the Mental Health Bill 2015 into the Queensland Parliament.

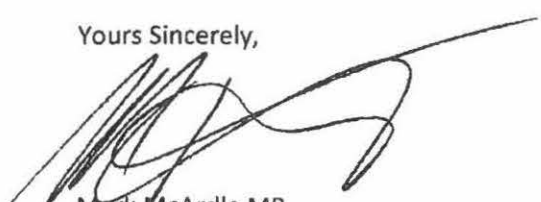
The Bills have similar purposes, with the primary purpose being to improve and maintain the health and wellbeing of persons with a mental illness. The Minister for Health in his speech introducing the Bill to the Parliament said the "bills have many reform directions in common" and it therefore makes sense to commence a harmonisation process and present one single Mental Health Bill to the Parliament which can be supported by all members.

I therefore propose the following process, the common elements of the Mental Health (Recovery Model) Bill 2015, and Mental Health Bill 2015 are united by the Office of Parliamentary Council. In addition to this, areas where differences occur be set aside and worked through individually to form a set of consensus clauses. These would then be combined into a single unified Mental Health Bill 2015.

The harmonisation process would result in a bipartisan Bill delivering improvements for the lives of Queenslanders suffering from a mental health illness. The Committee is required to report on both Bills by 24 November 2015, and I seek an extension of the reporting time to ensure we can work together in delivering a better Mental Health Act for Queensland.

I look forward to hearing from you

Yours Sincerely,



Mark McArdle MP  
Shadow Minister for Health  
Member for Caloundra