

Health and Community Services Committee
Departmental Briefing on the Mental Health Bill 2014
Thursday 11 December 2014
Question on Notice
No. 5

QUESTION:

What are the proposed governance arrangements for implementation of the Mental Health Bill 2014?

ANSWER:

Governance structures to support implementation of the Mental Health Bill 2014 (the Bill), if passed by Parliament, have been established. These structures include an *Inter-departmental Executive Committee*, which is chaired by the Deputy Director-General and Chief Operations Officer, Health Services Clinical Innovation Division, Department of Health to oversee implementation activities across agencies.

This committee will ensure a whole-of-government approach to implementation, and includes representation from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, the Queensland Police Service, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Hospital and Health Service representation and the Queensland Mental Health Commissioner.

A *Mental Health Act Review Implementation Committee* has also been established, which is to be chaired by the Executive Director, Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch. This committee comprises of executives within Queensland Health and will oversee implementation activities relevant to the Department of Health and Hospital and Health Services.

An *Expert Reference Group* chaired by the Chief Psychiatrist, Queensland Health will be comprised of mental health clinicians, administrators and consumer representatives who can provide expert advice and guidance on issues arising from implementation activities.

The flowchart at **Attachment A** demonstrates the relationship between the governance structures.

Service users, Hospital and Health Services, and members of the community are to be engaged throughout the implementation process through a number of communication tools, including internet and email communication, face-to-face meetings and direct correspondence.

Working groups for the key implementation areas of the Bill are proposed to commence in early 2015. Such groups will comprise of representatives from government agencies and bodies, as well as consumer representatives and community organisations. The working groups will consider, for example, implementation activities relating to the Magistrates Court changes, involuntary examination processes, patient rights and support, and Mental Health Review Tribunal process.

Attachment A - governance structure

