

OUR REF: It:ts

All enquiries regarding this correspondence should be directed to:
Dr Liz Todhunter, QNU Research and Policy Officer, 3840 1444

10 January 2013

Mr Trevor Ruthenberg MP
Chair
Health and Community Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000



Sent via email: hcsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Ruthenberg

Re: Queensland Mental Health Commission Bill 2012

The Queensland Nurses' Union (QNU) thanks the Health and Community Services Committee for providing the opportunity to comment on the *Queensland Mental Health Commission Bill 2012* (the Bill). The Bill outlines the legislative framework for establishing the Queensland Mental Health Commission (QMHC) as an independent body led by a Commissioner. The QNU has previously responded to an invitation to provide input on the establishment of the QMHC.

Amongst other matters, that response called for the QMHC to:

- Undertake consultation which is consistent with an Interest Based Problem Solving approach to achieving goals
- Focus on outcomes by establishing KPIs which promote positive activity and accountability
- Adopt a no- blame culture and commitment to quality and safety as key objectives
- Undertake surveillance and monitoring in order to promote accountability
- Undertake comprehensive workforce planning to ensure that this crucial element of service planning for mental health and alcohol and other drugs services is comprehensively and consistently addressed.
- Harness the input of the professions, such as mental health nurses, who are committed to advocacy as a core value in their mental health practice.



**NURSES AND
MIDWIVES**

**QUEENSLAND
NURSES'
UNION**

In association with the
Australian Nursing Federation
Queensland Branch

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The QNU has considered the provisions of the Bill and we do not make any suggestions for changes to wording. We do, however, note that Part 1, Division 3, Item 7 of the Bill provides for a whole-of-government strategic plan for the improvement of mental health and the limiting of harm associated with substance misuse. This plan has a number of aims including strategies for increasing participation by relevant persons in the development, delivery and evaluation of policies, programs and services to the greatest extent possible. In keeping with this objective and in the interests of representing our members and the wider community, the QNU requests that we be included in the strategic planning process. We believe that we can add value to this undertaking through the expertise of our members and our common aim of supporting and promoting the general health and wellbeing of the community.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Liz Todhunter, QNU Research and Policy Officer on 3840 1444 or at ltodhunter@qnu.org.au.

Yours sincerely

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Des Elder
Acting Secretary