

# Mental Health Act 2009

## Implementation Project

The *Mental Health Act 2009* (the Act) will be proclaimed on 1 July 2010. The purpose of this bulletin is to keep all stakeholders and interested parties informed of the progress of the Implementation Project. Recipients of the bulletin are encouraged to circulate it widely and/or to make it available to staff or other networks please. Copies of Information Bulletin No 1, the Act, the project plan and the governance structure are available at: <http://www.health.sa.gov.au/mentalhealth/>.

### Implementation Group

The Implementation Group that provides strategic direction and leadership to the implementation project met on 22 October 2009 and endorsed the Communications Plan and the Education and Training Plan.

### Communications Plan

The Communications Plan provides direction for the communication strategies to notify stakeholders of the implementation of the Act and to provide progress updates about the implementation project.

### Education and Training Project

#### Education and Training Plan

The Plan includes an overview of the education and training strategies to support the implementation of the Act. These broad strategies have been designed with the involvement of key groups and further development will be dependent on input from stakeholders. The plan aims to ensure that:

- Those who have a role in administering the new legislation receive appropriate education and training to perform their roles and responsibilities;
- The general public have access to information about the operation of the Act in a range of formats; and
- The features of the Act, including rights and responsibilities, concept of recovery and principle of least restrictive approach to treatment are promoted.

#### Training and Information Sessions

The strategies will include an accreditation program for Authorised Health Professionals (AHPs), a statewide roll out of information sessions and a range of targeted training & information for mental health clinicians. These strategies will be supported by a range of resources. It is anticipated that the training and information sessions will be available from March 2010.

The AHP training will be coordinated and delivered by the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist with support from senior clinicians. Potential AHPs will be

nominated by their region prior to attending the training. Consultation with

key groups is occurring to develop the nomination and selection process.

Information sessions will be provided for a wide range of groups including consumers, carers, the general public, mental health clinicians, general medical staff, non-government organisations (NGOs) and allied health workers. Experienced and skilled mental health clinicians will be identified by each region to deliver the information sessions at the local level. They will be supported by a train the trainer program and provided with standard training packages. The

information sessions will be overseen by the Mental Health Policy Unit (MHU) and coordinated within the regions.

SA Ambulance Services (SAAS), Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), Drug and Alcohol Services SA (DASSA), the South Australia Police (SAPOL) and the Guardianship Board have indicated their intention to be responsible for training their own staff and to work in partnership with the Implementation Project Team for the development and delivery of the legislation related component of the training.

Further consultation with General Practice SA will ensure GPs are provided with relevant and accessible information.

### Resources

A number of resources will be developed and will be available in hard copy and on the Chief Psychiatrist website including a:

- **Guide to the Act** that is easily read and provides an overview of the Act;
- series of **Information Brochures**;
- **Clinicians' Guide** that provides an overarching procedural framework, practical direction and assistance for mental health clinicians / practitioners.

### What's Next?

The next stage of the Education and Training Project will involve writing the resources and developing the training and information packages. Consultation with key groups will be critical to ensure the training and education and resources will meet the needs of the relevant groups.

### Regulations

It is anticipated that a cabinet submission seeking approval to draft the Regulations will be finalised before the end of 2009.

### Statements of Rights / Forms

Drafting of the Statements of Rights for voluntary and involuntary treatment and the forms that are required is underway.

### Information Systems Project

A process of mapping treatment and other processes under the Act is nearing completion. The mapping will inform the information system requirements of the future Office of the Chief Psychiatrist.

### Office of the Chief Psychiatrist

Dr Margaret Honeyman, Director Mental Health Policy / Chief Advisor in Psychiatry is scoping the requirements of the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist. The Mental Health Executive considered a draft scoping paper on 3 November 2009.

### Limited Treatment Centres

The new Act enables the establishment of Limited Treatment Centres (LTCs) and a Treatment Centres Advisory Group, has been set up to advise regarding the requirements for LTCs in country areas. The group is chaired by Mr Mike Melino, Executive Director, Country Health SA.

### Community Visitor Scheme

The Act provides for a Community Visitor Scheme (CVS) and requires that treatment centres, intermediate care centres and community recovery centres be visited. The CVS must be established by 11 June 2011. A scoping paper outlining options/funding requirements has been prepared for the Minister for Mental Health & Substance Abuse.

### Memorandum of Understanding

The Mental Health Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SA Health, SAAS, RFDS and SAPOL was implemented in 2006. The MOU is being revised to reflect the recommendations of the MoU Evaluation Report of July 2009 and the provisions of the new Act. Ms Kaaren Dahl, Principal Project Advisor, MHU who is leading the revision of the MOU can be contacted on (08) 8226 7454 or by email: [kaaren.dahl@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:kaaren.dahl@health.sa.gov.au).


### Information and Feedback

For more information or to provide

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For more information or to provide feedback please contact:

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feedback to any person or group involved in the implementation of the Act, in the first instance, please contact the project team.



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