

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C063

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE (Of which some notice has been given)

Wednesday, 19 February 2014

Hon Stephen Dawson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health

I refer to the Office of Mental Health within the Department of Health and I ask:

1. What is the role of the Office of Mental Health?
2. How many staff are employed within the Office of Mental Health?
3. What tasks are allocated to each staff member?
4. What projects are the Office of Mental Health currently working on?
5. How will the Office of Mental Health assist with the implementation of the Mental Health Bill?

I thank the Member for some notice of this question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Health.

(1) The Office of Mental Health (OMH) was established with the appointment of the Executive Director in April 2013 as a recommendation of the WA Government Response to the *Review of the admission or referral to and the discharge and transfer practices of public mental health facilities/services in Western Australia* ('Stokes Review'), by Professor Bryant Stokes, July 2012.

The Executive Director of the OMH has responsibilities recommended by the Stokes Review, which are:

- To oversee quality control and risk mitigation.
- To provide liaison between area Mental Health Services and the Department of Health (DOH), the Mental Health Commission (MHC), WA Police, Drug and Alcohol services and non-government services.
- To develop the Mental Health Clinical Services Plan in collaboration with the MHC.
- To set policy, including best practice and standards not under the remit of the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist (OCP).
- To develop standard service provision documentation, including models of care, patient risk assessment and management.

- To oversee the compliance of policies by the various service providers and reporting on those services that do not comply.
- To work closely with the OCP to ensure compliance with regulations from that Office.
- To develop Memorandums of Understanding with the performance, activity and quality functions of the DOH.
- The OMH is accountable and reports directly to the Director General. The Executive Director of the OMH is an executive member of the DOH.
- Additional responsibilities include driving and optimising system performance regarding state-wide (i.e. Stokes Review) and national reform, the Mental Health Bill, and stakeholder relationships.

(2) The OMH has been allocated 14 FTE, of which 11 FTE are currently filled. There is currently 2 additional staff on short term contracts.

(3-4) With the OMH established as per the recommendations of the Government's response to the Stokes Review, the current key function of the OMH is the implementation of the Review, reporting to the Director General, Chair of the Implementation Partnership Group and the Minister for Mental Health.

The OMH is currently structured in two teams, described below as (a) and (b), with a manager appointed to each team, each directly reporting to the Executive Director:

(a) Portfolios of responsibility include:

- Implementation of Stokes Review Recommendations – the OMH under the Government's Response to the Review was assigned responsibility for the implementation of 66 Review recommendations, as well as 36 Review recommendations jointly with other agencies;
- Ministerial support; and
- State-wide policy issues.

(b) Portfolios of responsibility include:

- Reporting Functions;
- Mental Health Bill 2013 implementation; and
- Establishment of Service and Data Agreements with the MHC.

Given interdependencies across the portfolios, each team works in close collaboration and across portfolio responsibilities. The OMH also works collaboratively with the Health Services, the OCP, divisions of the DOH and the MHC.

(5) The OMH will facilitate the planning and implementation of the DOH's responsibilities under the Mental Health Bill 2013 (the Bill). All operational aspects of the Bill that impact on delivery of mental health services are the DOH's responsibility to implement. Such clauses make up the majority of the Bill. To promote a consistent approach across all Health Services and based on an effective state-wide approach, the OMH will work with Health Services to ensure a coordinated approach to implementation.

The Executive Director of the OMH is a member of the MHC's Bill Implementation Reference Group. Furthermore, the OMH facilitates the DOH Mental Health Bill Implementation Group which has representatives from all the Health Services and has a focus on operational implementation issues. This group will guide the planning and implementation of the DOH responsibilities under the Bill.