



Queensland  
**Mental Health and Drug  
Advisory Council**

## Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council Meeting Brisbane – 8 August 2024

### **COMMUNIQUE**

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The Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council (the Council) met in Brisbane on 8 August 2024.

#### **Meeting highlights**

##### *AOD testing of parents*

The Council discussed issues around the use of hair follicle and urine tests to determine AOD use by parents of unborn children, and parents who have had their children removed from their care. Discussion included parents who were flagged for cannabis use despite having medicinal cannabis prescriptions, and how hair follicle tests can return positive results for AOD use up to 12 months before the date the test was taken. The Council suggested that research be conducted into the experience of parents who have had their children removed from their care due to these types of AOD tests.

##### *LGBTIQA+ AOD services*

The Council discussed the availability of AOD services for LGBTIQA+ people and the effects of discrimination on LGBTIQA+ people in AOD rehabilitation programs. The Commission will seek information from Queensland Health regarding current funding for LGBTIQA+ AOD services.

##### *Support for transgender people in correctional centres*

The Council discussed issues surrounding the prison conditions for incarcerated transgender people. The Council also discussed the Commission's funding of the Sisters Inside program. The Commission will invite the Queensland Council for LGBTI Health to present at a future council meeting.

##### *Mental health services for people experiencing homelessness*

Council members discussed challenges facing people experiencing homelessness, including the lack of mental health services and support available. Council members highlighted that people experiencing homelessness are often end up in the criminal justice system and not being redirected to support services. The Council recommended that the Commission review the mental health services available to people experiencing homelessness and identify gaps in the accessibility of those services.

##### *Approaches to reduce stigma and discrimination*

The Council was provided with an update on the Commission's work to reduce stigma and discrimination, and the progress of the stigma campaign. Council members discussed the scope of the campaign, and the metrics for determining the effectiveness of the campaign, along with the importance of engaging Queenslanders with lived-experience in the campaign development.

### *General update:*

#### ***Other discussions included:***

- The Council discussed the ongoing work with the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist regarding data collection on the use of seclusion and restraint.
- The Commission provided an update on The Queensland Trauma Strategy. Council members provided feedback, particularly around First Nations representation in the Strategy.
- Updates were provided on the Commission's work regarding human rights, First Nations social and emotional wellbeing, and lived-living experience.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for 17 October 2024.