



Queensland  
**Mental Health and Drug  
Advisory Council**

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

### COMMUNIQUE

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The Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council (the Council) met at Common Ground Queensland in Brisbane on 8 February 2024.

#### Meeting highlights

##### *Report from the Commissioner*

The Commissioner provided an update on current Commission work including an update on work relating to housing. The Council noted that young people were not mentioned in the housing update and requested information be provided to the Council on youth homelessness policy and supports.

An update on Commission work relating to First Nations people was provided to the Council. The Council discussed the merit of community-driven identification of underlying issues affecting First Nations communities.

The Commission provided an update to the Council on Commission work relating to people with lived and living experience.

##### *Seclusion and restraint*

Council member, Jorgen Gullestrup, provided the Council with an overview of the Mental Health Lived Experience Peak Queensland discussion paper *Shining a Light: Eliminating Coercive Practices in Queensland Mental Health Services*. Council members endorsed the discussion paper.

Council members discussed the standards in place for the use of seclusion and restraint in mental health services and noted that the legislation requires the use of the least possible restrictive practice. Members agreed the objective should be the elimination of restrictive practices completely.

##### *General update:*

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

- Council members discussed supports available for Queenslanders after natural disasters. They noted concerns that support is only available during a crisis, rather than building resilience before crises or natural disasters. The Commission will organise a speaker at a future Council meeting to present on Queensland Government mobilisation following a natural disaster, and supports made available to people who suffer adverse mental health effects and trauma from such events.
- The Council discussed the Closing the Gap report released by the Productivity Commission and implementing the recommendations in a First Nations youth justice context. The Council requested the Commission provide a summary of the report for discussion at the next meeting.

- The Council discussed First Nations health equity and requested the Commission invite Haylene Grogan, Chief First Nations Health Officer, to attend a future Council meeting to provide an update on the issue.
- Council members discussed the Path to Treaty and truth-telling process, and raised concerns about the risk of trauma to First Nations communities should the program be halted.
- The Council discussed the construction of a new youth remand centre in Wacol, and the implications and impact on the mental health of young people.
- The Council discussed the Commission's submission to the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee Inquiry. The Council recommended the Commission draft a letter to The Hon. Di Farmer, Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice, providing a summary of the Commission's Youth Justice reform submission and also distribute to Council members.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting is proposed for 18 April 2024 in Cairns.