

Health Reform Update and NSW Mental Health Commission

October 2011

NSW Health - Reform

- Commonwealth – National Health and Hospital Reform including the introduction of different funding models including ABF
- State – Drivers of Change include:
 - State Government policy
 - Local Health Districts (formerly Local Health Networks) including Boards, focus on decentralisation and devolution of responsibilities)

NSW Health – Governance Review

- Governance Review chaired by D-G
- Department of Health to become Ministry of Health and have a Westminster-type role.
- Local Health Districts and Speciality Networks – Service agreements with the Department (as purchaser and system manager) and the LHD Board (as provider)

Mental Health Commission: Background

- Election commitment to establish a NSW Mental Health Commission:
 - Provide quarantined and accountable funding for mental health expenditure
 - Establish a working group to develop the legislation to establish the Mental Health Commission
 - Establish three specialist units within the Mental Health Commission to better manage the experience of people with a mental illness and carers, divert the mentally ill away from the prison system, and help ensure a smooth operation of the Mental Health Review Tribunal.
- Government established:
 - Taskforce to Establish the NSW Mental Health Commission
 - 5 Working Groups

Consultations

- 2,000 involved in consultations:
- Taskforce-led consultations with Mental Health Commissions from other jurisdictions
- Working Group meetings – external experts
- 6 consultative forums – around 330 participants
- Online community and stakeholder survey - 1,000 involved, 694 completed
- Consultations led by Consumer Advisory Group and ARAFMI – around 1,000 consumers and carers

Consultation results

- Independent
- Strategic capacity - drive reform
- Whole of government role – focus on mental health and wellbeing, across government and non government
- Accountability – monitoring and reporting
- Stakeholder consultation – ongoing community, consumer and carer , and service provider engagement
- Mental Health budget used for mental health

Next steps

- Final Report and Bill outline to be considered by Government
- Drafting of Mental Health Commission Bill 2011
- Introduction of Bill to Parliament during November 2011
- Implementation of Mental Health Commission by July 2012