

ACT Mental Health Advisory Council

Public Communique - Meeting 23

The ACT Mental Health Advisory Council (the Council) convened on 14 July 2021. The meeting was chaired by Sue-Ann Polden.

The Council met with the Minister for Mental Health (the Minister) to discuss recommendations in relation to developments addressing the mental health of different age groups. This included including the key developments in relation to older person's mental health, new adult mental health centres and addressing the needs of youth.

The Council noted the progress made by the Office for Mental Health in the development of the online Youth Navigation Portal and projects addressing the needs of young people with moderate to severe mental illness. The successful roll out of the Youth Aware of Mental Health program in ACT schools was also noted.

The Safe Haven Café and Adult Mental Health Centres were noted as strong community based initiatives that would benefit from close collaboration in their implementation.

The Council spoke with the Minister about the findings and recommendations of the Royal Commission into the Quality and Safety of Aged Care and the work underway nationally as well as the Re-envisioning Older Person's Mental Health and Wellbeing in the ACT Strategy currently being developed by the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing.

The Council also spoke with the Minister about the complaints processes in the ACT and how to develop a culture that is open to hearing feedback and complaints and using consumer experience to improve services.

The Council undertook planning about its future work plan and considered how to maximise the opportunities it has to provide advice to the Minister. The Council considered how to use other opportunities to link into the work of the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing. The workplan for the 2021-22 financial year will be finalised based on these discussions.

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