

Communique 2 - Offender Health Services Governance Improvement Project

Offender Health Services Steering Committee Alliance (OHSSCA)

The second meeting of OHSSCA was held on 22 March 2018. Prior to the meeting members visited the Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre to gain a better understanding of a correctional environment and opportunities to improve the health of people living in a correctional centre.

Independent Review

OHSSCA members received an update regarding the status of the independent review of offender health services. Members were advised that their feedback had been incorporated into the scope of the review and that the Department of Health had now finalised the review documentation. The Department of Health is currently seeking proposals from selected suppliers on the Queensland Government panel. It is expected that the independent review will commence in April 2018 and be completed around the middle of the 2018 calendar year.

OHSSCA members discussed the importance of stakeholder consultation in the review. They also agreed on mechanisms to ensure that OHSSCA members can proactively contribute to the review as it progresses.

Complaint Analysis

OHSSCA members considered an analysis of complaints received by the Office of Health Ombudsman. It also discussed some of the potential drivers for some of the issues raised in these complaints.

Correspondence/Reports

OHSSCA members noted the recent Human Rights Watch report regarding prisoners with disabilities in Australia. It also discussed some of the immediate challenges that the overcrowding of prisons is having on the capacity to deliver health care and some of the actions taken to manage this pressure.

Background

The Department of Health in consultation with key stakeholders is conducting a project to improve the governance of offender health services in Queensland. Further information about this project can be found in first Communique regarding this project.

This project is being guided by the OHSSCA (pronounced "Oscar") which is chaired by Dr John Wakefield, Deputy Director-General of the Clinical Excellence Division. Membership of the steering committee is cross-sectorial and includes representatives from:

- Hospital and Health Services
- Queensland Corrective Services
- Office of the Health Ombudsman
- Health Consumers Queensland
- The Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union

If you would like further information about this project please email offenderhealth@health.qld.gov.au