

Communique 3 - Offender Health Services Governance Improvement Project

Offender Health Services Steering Committee Alliance (OHSSCA)

The third meeting of OHSSCA was held on 11 April 2018. At this meeting members discussed and agreed with a proposed approach and methodology regarding the independent review of offender health services.

The fourth meeting of OHSSCA was held on 17 May 2018. At this meeting, members received an update regarding the Offender Health Services Governance Improvement Project (OHSGIP) and an overview of the themes identified from a literature review which is part of the independent review of offender health services.

OHSGIP update

- PwC had been engaged to conduct an independent review of offender health services
- A comprehensive information package had been provided to PwC to assist it in understanding the issues, challenges and opportunities in providing offender health services and to assist with its literature and information review.
- Future meetings of the OHSSCA have been scheduled to co-incide with key milestones in the review which will provide members with an opportunity to discuss the key themes and findings as the review progresses.
- Over the next few weeks PwC will also be visiting offender health services in most correctional centres across Queensland, and consulting key staff within Hospital and Health Services and other stakeholders to gain a further understanding of the issues, challenges and opportunities to improve services.
- It is expected that phase 2 of the OHSGIP (implementation of an approved governance improvement plan) will commence sometime in the second half of 2018. The commencement of phase 2 will be subject to the approval of the governance improvement plan.

Literature and information review

PwC provided an outline of the findings from its literature and information review which provided a broad overview of comparative service provision in New South Wales, Victoria, Canada, the UK and Norway. A key finding is prisoners have complex health needs and typically are socially and economically disadvantaged before entering prison. In addition, there is no ratified international system of clinical standards or performance measures for offender health services. There are however internationally accepted principles. These principles include the importance of *independence* between of health service delivery and prison administration whilst ensuring effective liaison. A further principle is *equivalence* in access to and availability of health services for offenders to that which is generally available in the community.

Correspondence/Reports

OHSSCA members were informed of Taskforce Flaxton – the Crime and Corruption Commission's inquiry into corruption and the risk of corruption in Queensland's correctional service facilities.

Background

The Department of Health, in consultation with key stakeholders, is conducting a project to improve the governance of offender health services in Queensland: Offender Health Services Governance Improvement Project (OHSGIP). Further information about this project can be found on the Clinical Excellence Division website.

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
- The 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