



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Mental Health

Reference: HCSD - ACT Health

Hearing: 11 November 2025

In relation to: Mental health and Office of Mental Health and Wellbeing

Question received: 19 November 2025

Answer Due: 26 November 2025

1. In what ways does the Office of Mental Health and Wellbeing maintain its independence?
2. What percentage of the Office of Mental Health and Wellbeing Workplan for the year was achieved?
3. What progress has the Office made in achieving its vision and purpose?

RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing (OMHW) has never been an independent statutory commission, having been previously structurally located within the ACT Health Directorate. It is now located in the Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD), consistent with the ACTPS 2025 Taskforce Report.

Under this structure, the OMHW continues to operate as a dedicated team within HCSD, working alongside the mental health policy and program teams. This arrangement supports the OMHW to focus on its community-driven work plan and to continue to work closely with the community and key stakeholders.

2. The 2024-25 Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing Work Plan included a mix of new initiatives and the continuation of key priorities from previous years. Most of these planned activities have been delivered as outlined in the Annual Report 2024-25, with some work intentionally continuing into 2025-26. This includes ongoing promotion and prevention priorities, suicide prevention initiatives and lived experience led actions.

3. The OMHW continues to advance its vision and purpose by working collaboratively across the sector and with community. This is achieved through delivering against the OMHW Work Plan, supported by a dedicated team with lived and professional experience.

The OMHW also leads and participates in a range of key forums and initiatives, including the Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance, the AOD & MH Alliance and the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Committee. Through these mechanisms, the OMHW provides a consistent and trusted connection point for the sector and community.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



Date:

30/11/25

By the Minister for Mental Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA