



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Mental Health

Reference: Mental Health

Hearing: 11 February 2025

In relation to: Responses to Chief Psychiatrist Report dated January 2024

Question received: 18 February 2025

Answer Due: 25 February 2025

I note the Chief Psychiatrist Report January 2024 and that the Government response in August 2024, largely agreeing to or noting the recommendations.

Can you advise me on the progress of plans to implement those recommendations?

If agreed recommendations have not yet been implemented, when do you anticipate that this will occur?

Can you provide a copy of your implementation work plan?

MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

In January 2025 the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist appointed a dedicated resource to oversee the implementation of recommendations in the Chief Psychiatrist Report. An Executive Steering Committee was established to oversee the implementation of amendments following the Government Response. Membership of the Executive Steering Committee comprises:

- ACT Chief Psychiatrist
- Deputy Director-General (Justice), Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS)
- Executive Director, Mental Health, Justice Health, Alcohol and Drugs Services (MHJHADS), Canberra Health Services (CHS)
- President, ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal
- Chief Executive Officer, Carers ACT
- Chief Executive Officer, ACT Mental Health Consumer Network

The Steering Committee convened on 21 November 2024.

OFFICIAL

A Clinical Working Group and a Legislative Working Group have been established to advise the Executive Steering Committee and oversee progress against the clinical and legislative recommendations. The Clinical Working Group is scheduled to convene on Tuesday 18 March 2025. The Legislative Working Group met on 12 February 2025.

The recommendations for legislative reform discuss the operation of Chapters 10 and 11 of the *Mental Health Act 2015*, for which the Attorney-General has administrative responsibility. JACS has commenced planning to implement legislative recommendations. Recommendations relating to legislative reform have been triaged based on complexity and the level of risk to community safety. The triage identifies 12 high priority recommendations, five medium priority recommendations, five lower priority recommendations and two recommendations which do not require action.

The recommendations for clinical reform are under the purview of the Minister for Mental Health. CHS has commenced work to implement clinical recommendations.

The ACT Health Directorate and JACS are currently developing proposed legislative reforms to ensure legislative vehicles are available to progress amendments in multiple tranches. A project management plan, including implementation schedule, is currently being developed for review and endorsement by the Executive Steering Committee.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



Date:

23/2/25

By the Minister for Mental Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith