Mental Health Review -
Summary of Recommendations

Prepared for Western New South Wales Local Health District

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This document provides a summary of the recommendations made by Health Partners Consulting Group in relation to the Western New South Wales Local Health District Mental Health Review conducted between December 2013 and April 2014.

It includes recommendations in relation to the services and recommendations to the LHD Executive regarding service planning and management. A description of the findings and recommendations in relation to the services is available in the document titled “Mental Health Review Key Service-Related Findings and Recommendations”.

A. Recommendations Regarding Services

The Reviewers recommend that the LHD:

1) Moves to a more contemporary model of care by decreasing inpatient care and increasing community services and residential services for adults who are acutely mentally unwell, adults with non-acute mental health conditions and older people with non-acute mental health conditions.

2) Enhances and strengthens the current hub and spoke approach as its model for the delivery of community services, in order to:
   - ensure an equitable spread of services across the District
   - adequately meet the needs of those population groups perceived as currently being underserviced

3) Ensures that future service configuration and models of service delivery enhance the responsiveness of services to the needs of Aboriginal people.

4) Revises its community mental health team structure and composition across the district with the aim of increasing access to evidence-based approaches, multidisciplinary input, peer support and collaborative working.

5) Develops and implements a rural and remote MHDA action plan aimed at enhancing community care for rural and remote areas by addressing issues in relation to recruitment, retention and access to professional support and supervision for staff working in those areas, including clearly defining the role of MHROS.
B. Recommendations Regarding Service Planning and Management

*The Reviewers recommend that the LHD:*

6) Works with the Ministry to clarify the funding currently available for mental health services and to agree an acceptable baseline service mix as a starting point for the changes planned to service mix as a result of the recommendations of this review.

7) Takes steps to live within its means, both in delivering its current services and in implementing the significant service transformation recommended in this Review.

8) Strengthens MHDA planning and procurement capability by ensuring there is dedicated MHDA and planning expertise within the LHD Planning unit.

9) Restructures its MHDA management with a view to developing a more streamlined and efficient structure that supports its plans to:
   • move to a more contemporary service configuration
   • enhance the match between services and demography and need
   • live within its means
   • successfully manage an extensive programme of service transformation and integration over the next 3-5 years

10) Ensures that modern and effective management systems and infrastructure are in place to support the efficient and effective delivery of services with specific emphasis on:
   • Prioritising the development of the electronic clinical record and the provision of support to utilise this across all services.
   • Ensuring all unit managers have ready access to budgetary and staffing information for their cost centre and routinely receive management reports.
   • Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of human resource systems to support the recruitment and retention of staff.

11) For the 3-5 year period of transformation to a contemporary service configuration, prioritises this work and establishes dedicated transformation and integration roles to oversee planning for the changes and to ensure a smooth transition process.