

MEDIA RELEASE

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WAAMH welcomes improvements to the Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Services Plan

WESTERN Australia's peak body for community mental health, the WA Association for Mental Health (WAAMH) has welcomed improvements made to the Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Services Plan, which was released today, and called on the government to demonstrate its commitment by announcing how it will resource the plan.

WAAMH president Alison Xamon said significant changes had been made following consultation on the draft plan, indicating that the government was genuine in its commitment to listen to feedback from consumers, families and services.

These changes contained amendments in the forensic services section of the plan, including removal of the reference to 92 additional beds forecast to be located on a prison site, and specific actions around the operation of the Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Accused) Act (CLMIA Act).

"WAAMH is relieved that future forensic services will be primarily developed within the mental health system and not in the prison system," Ms Xamon said.

"Unfortunately the CLMIA Act still places people with a mental illness, intellectual or cognitive disability in indefinite detention without access to the courts or an independent advocate when they have not been convicted.

"WA currently has the worst legislation in Australia for the mentally impaired accused and it is essential that the current review of the CLMIA Act is both released immediately and also results in real change with a focus on human rights."

WAAMH also welcomed the inclusion of more detail about system reform, including recognition of the critical importance of developing the workforce, the emphasis on integration and a commitment to implementation through partnership. This points to the importance of the state plan being implemented in close co-ordination with the roll out of the national reforms to mental health.

"The Mental Health Commission and the WA Primary Health Alliance have crucial roles in achieving effective co-commissioning of mental health services in WA," Ms Xamon said.

WAAMH also welcomed the enhanced focus on the need for Aboriginal-appropriate services, the greater detail on service requirements in each region and the further emphasis on housing and homelessness services.

"We welcome the bipartisan support there appears to be for the plan," Ms Xamon said. "We call on all parties to jointly commit to resourcing it to make it a reality."

Read more about WAAMH's position on the Ten Year Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Services Plan, [here](#).



Western Australian Association
for Mental Health

About WAAMH

The Western Australian Association for Mental Health (WAAMH) was incorporated in 1966 and is the peak body representing WA's community-managed mental health sector, with around 100 organisational and individual members. WAAMH advocates for effective public policy on mental health issues, delivers workforce training and sector development, and promotes positive mental health and wellbeing. Further info at <http://www.waamh.org.au>

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