

What is the Southern Zone Mental Health Education Service (SZMHES)?

The Southern Zone Mental Health Education Service (SZMHES) was formed in late 2002 under the direction of the Southern Zone Management Unit. The central purpose of the SZMHES is to ensure effective and equitable access to mental health education by sharing resources and consolidating education systems and delivery methods. Whilst primarily delivering directly to the Southern Zone workforce at the present time, a number of its existing programs are increasingly being accessed more broadly throughout the State.

Isn't the SZMHES part of The Park - Centre for Mental Health?

The SZMHES was formed by combining education resources from The Park-Centre for Mental Health, and the Toowoomba Mental Health Service District. The SZMHES is co-located at both of these sites. At The Park, the SZMHES is one of three education/research services located at the School of Mental Health. The Park Education Program (PEP), and Service Evaluation and Research Unit (SERU) are the local education and research resources retained directly for the Park staff, but which also contribute indirectly to the SZMHES. The SZMHES will develop a role in communication and marketing of local education programs in the Districts so that access can be increased across the Southern Zone.

What training packages and other resources does the SZMHES have?

The SZMHES has direct access to a range of established training packages and resources through its education partners (eg. Griffith University, The University of Queensland, The Park Centre, Statewide Training Projects). New education packages are being developed using a lifespan model of child and youth, adult and older person's mental health education, in partnership with participating Districts.

Who staffs the SZMHES?

The SZMHES is staffed by a Director and Program Manager and shares administrative and support services with the two host campuses. Core teaching staff include four Zonal mental health educators recruited to the areas of: Child & Youth, Adult, Older Persons and Rural Mental Health Education. Education project officers are also employed to develop education projects requested by Corporate Office or the SZMHES Management Committee. A contact list for core staff is attached.

Why are educational resources centralised in two sites instead of being distributed across all the Districts?

Evidence suggests that having a "critical mass" of educators and resources will retain and enhance the development and delivery of education programs into the future, by assisting communication, teamwork, administration efficiency, financial management, marketing and promotions, and other important functions. The proposed model promotes mobility and flexibility, allowing educators to deliver a range of services across the Zone, in partnership with individual sites and Districts.

Southern Zone Mental Health Education Service

General Information – MARCH 2004 (Continued)

What can the SZMHES offer me and my service?

The SZMHES will operate 3 program components as from June 2003:

A. Clinician and service driven education program (direct delivery that is fluid and responsive). Selection of topics will be clinician driven and service driven. The topics will be endorsed by the SZMHES and delivered directly to specified clinical teams on the basis of a quarterly calendar. By the end of 12 months each district will have received equitable access to the newly recruited educators specialising in child and youth, adult, older persons mental health, respectively. Quarterly Program attached.

B. Corporate and strategically driven education programs (formal, often statewide initiatives). These are the broader education initiatives hosted by the SZMHES and delivered to districts to address longer term education needs and workforce issues. This includes Statewide education programs (eg. Outcomes Training, PDP, Allied Persons project) which are being hosted by the SZMHES. It also includes tertiary education partnerships including university affiliated courses already being developed and delivered by the SZMHES (eg. Griffith University and University of Queensland post-graduate programs) across the state, including significant numbers of staff in the Southern Zone.

C. Communication and marketing of Local Programs - the SZMHES will commence centralised communication and marketing of local education programs for the districts in the Southern Zone via the SZMHES Website and other communication activities and a Central Education Register.

How do I contact the SZMHES?

Mental health services in each District are represented on the Management Committee, which meets every two months. You are always welcome to contact the SZMHES directly with queries, requests and feedback.

General Enquiries - Administration Officer	3271 8622
Director	3271 8622
Program Manager	3271 8640
Zonal Mental Health Educator (Child & Youth)	3271 8644
Zonal Mental Health Educator (Adult)	3271 8638
Zonal Mental Health Educator (Older Persons)	4699 8778
Rural Mental Health Education	4699 8835