

Youth Mental Health Program Oversight Committee

The ninth and final Oversight Committee meeting, chaired by Dr Jillann Farmer, Deputy Director-General, Clinical Excellence Queensland, Department of Health, was held on 4 August 2020.

Committee members noted the achievement of key flagship projects under the Youth Mental Health program - Jacaranda Place – the Queensland Adolescent Extended Treatment Centre (Jacaranda Place), the two new Youth Step Up Step Down (SUSD) services at Logan and Caboolture and the Adolescent Day Program at Gold Coast.

Committee members available to attend in-person were provided with a tour of Jacaranda Place which has now commenced services following practical completion in February 2020. The Day Program component commenced on 20 April 2020 providing services on-site in partnership with the Department of Education (DoE). Jacaranda Place inpatient beds commenced operating on 18 May 2020 following a period of virtual support in collaboration with local child and youth mental health services prior to transition to admission.

Caboolture Youth SUSD services commenced operating on 9 March 2020 following practical completion in February 2020. Logan Youth SUSD service commenced face to face service provision on 6 May 2020 following a brief period of virtual support offered to young people referred due to minor building and procurement delays in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Gold Coast Adolescent Day Program commenced services in July 2020 utilising a scaled implementation approach aligned to the school term, following practical completion in February 2020. Work to develop the Logan Adolescent Day Program continues with Design Development nearing completion. Construction completion is due for early 2021 with services to commence shortly after.

Denise Cumming (Mind Australia), Danielle Alchin [Metro North Hospital and Health Service (HHS)] and Raymond Ho and Tracey Hasaan (Metro South HHS) presented to the Committee on integrated activities undertaken to support service development of the Caboolture and Logan Youth SUSD services, noting involvement of consumers and carers in fit-out, staff recruitment and ongoing governance of these new integrated services. Similarly, committee members heard from Renee Kay (Gold Coast HHS) and Michelle Bond (DoE) on integrated service development activities to support service commencement for the Gold Coast Adolescent Day Program.

Delivery of the above new services is a significant achievement in realising the Government's commitment to enhancing and expanding the range of mental health service options available to young people with severe and complex mental health issues. These services were delivered on time and within budget.

Noting the conclusion of this Committee, members received updates regarding governance structures for the program of work across the child, adolescent and young person MHAOD service continuum in place or being established to support the ongoing development and delivery of evidence-based models across the continuum of services and including consumer and carer representation.

Further, the Committee received updates from the MHAOD Branch on the development of a new five-year plan for Queensland's state-funded mental health alcohol and other drugs plan to follow on from *Connecting Care to Recovery: A plan for Queensland's State-funded mental health, alcohol and other drug services 2016-2021*, including activities underway to support a series of statewide virtual consultations.

The Chair acknowledged the contribution of all Committee members in progressing this key piece of work and particularly acknowledged consumer and carer members for their co-design contributions and the ongoing commitment from the Department of Health to ensure the views of individuals with a lived experience of mental illness, their carers and families are incorporated into ongoing planning, service review and design, governance and evaluation processes.

See the Youth Mental Health website <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/improvement/youthmentalhealth> for further information.