

Interstate mental health patients in Queensland

Returning patients who are absent from an interstate mental health service

If an interstate mental health patient travels to Queensland and becomes absent without permission, then Queensland's *Mental Health Act 2016* may recognise interstate laws that authorise certain people to return the patient to the interstate mental health service.

This factsheet is intended to provide general information to interstate mental health services about how they can return an absent patient who is currently in Queensland.

Recognition of interstate mental health laws for absent patients in Queensland

If an apprehension authority is issued under interstate mental health legislation for an interstate patient who is currently in Queensland, then section 368 of Queensland's *Mental Health Act 2016* both:

- recognises that apprehension authority requiring the absent patient's return to an interstate mental health service
- allows interstate officers (authorised under the interstate mental health legislation) to apprehend, detain and transport the absent patient.

This allows interstate officers, such as interstate mental health clinicians, to work with Queensland clinicians, ambulance officers and police officers to return the absent patient.

Contact the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist before returning an absent patient

Before attempting to return an interstate mental health patient in Queensland, please contact the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist so that they can (if necessary):

- confirm that the interstate apprehension authority is valid
- advise if there's a local authorised mental health service, that the interstate mental health service should liaise with.

Office of the Chief Psychiatrist

Mental Health Act Liaison Service

Phone: 07 3328 9899 or free call 1800 989 451

Email: MHA2016@health.qld.gov.au

