



Office of the Chief Psychiatrist
Media Statement

Thursday, 5 August 2021

Attributable to Chief Psychiatrist, Dr John Brayley:

The Office of the Chief Psychiatrist (OCP) has placed a gazettal condition on the Mt Gambier and Districts Health Service requiring that an intervention plan, approved by the Chief Psychiatrist, is in place to monitor and manage the quality and safety of mental health care in the service.

A routine inspection of mental health services in Mount Gambier was conducted by clinicians from the OCP in April.

The inspection identified issues relating to the management of at risk patients who leave the emergency department, the current reliance on police assistance to manage patient behaviours of concern, the reporting of incidents, and some facility concerns which include the need for improvements in the duress system.

These are system issues, and the decision to place gazettal conditions is not a reflection on the existing improvement work of Limestone Coast Local Health Network clinicians and management.

I wish to acknowledge the work of the many skilled and dedicated clinicians are providing to the local Mt Gambier community. These gazettal conditions intend to improve service provision and safety for both the community and staff.

The temporary gazettal condition will be lifted when the intervention plan has been substantially completed.

Background

Under the *Mental Health Act 2009*, inspections can be conducted to facilities providing care and treatment to people with mental illness.

A routine unannounced inspections of mental health services in Mount Gambier was conducted by clinicians from the OCP across two days in April 2021.

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