



Office of the Chief Psychiatrist
Media Statement

Thursday, 16 June 2022

Attributable to Chief Psychiatrist, Dr John Brayley:

The temporary gazettal conditions applied to the Mount Gambier and Districts Health Service will cease today.

The Office of the Chief Psychiatrist (OCP) acknowledges the extensive work undertaken by the Limestone Coast Local Health Network (LCLHN) Board, Executive, and staff to respond to the gazettal conditions.

The conditions, that required an intervention plan, were put in place on the 5 August 2021. This followed an inspection that 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 improvement in the duress system.

The intervention plan was to monitor and manage the quality and safety of care in the service.

Our Office notes within the Mount Gambier and Districts Health Service there has been additional staff training, increased safety measures, improved reporting of incidents, and additional mental health medical staffing to address service demands.

Furthermore, whilst not linked to the gazettal conditions, there has been an improvement to the outdoor space of the Integrated Mental Health Inpatient Unit (IMHIU), providing a more inviting and safer space for patients.

The OCP completed a follow up inspection to review progress against the intervention plan and held regular meetings with staff and Executive to seek progress updates. Monitoring and improvement work will now continue as part of routine business for the service.

Our Office looks forward to continuing to work with LCLHN as they progress this work and as they pursue next steps.

Background

The Chief Psychiatrist gazetted temporary conditions that commenced on 5 August 2021 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.

For more information

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