



## HEALTH CONSUMERS' COUNCIL

31 August 2023

### **Health Consumers' Council welcomes the mental health reforms**

Health Consumers' Council welcomes the State Government response to the Independent Governance Review regarding mental health services.

The reforms strengthen the lived experience leadership in mental health service provision at all levels from policy development to service commissioning and sector oversight.

We commend the Government for their considered approach and responding to the feedback from people with lived experience, consumer advocates and others that it is important that the Mental Health Commission retains current commissioning arrangements for mental health services. We welcome further consultation on the future of AOD service commissioning.

HCC WA believes that a revised mental health strategy to be developed from 2025 should centre the collaboration between the Department of Health and Mental Health Commission to reform service provision into a more integrated system.

Lived experience and consumer involvement at the highest decision-making level roles will ensure progress in creating equal partnerships between government agencies, service providers, and consumers. It will enable focus on recovery and measure progress on outcomes with critical consumer input. Emphasis on community services is long overdue and essential to the recovery focus.

HCC WA looks forward to a fully funded strategy from 2025 and to further investment in capacity building in the mental health consumer sector, including at leadership levels.

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### **About Health Consumers' Council**

Health Consumers' Council is WA's peak health consumer organisation. Since 1994 HCC has provided an independent voice for the community on all aspects of health and healthcare.

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