



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Health**  
Office of the **Director General**

Ms Debora Colvin  
Chief Mental Health Advocate  
Mental Health Advocacy Service  
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Dear Ms Colvin *Debora*

### **NON-COMPLIANCE WITH SECTIONS 186 TO 188 OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT 2014**

Thank you for your letter dated 19 March 2018 regarding the Mental Health Advocacy Service (MHAS) Treatment Support and Discharge Plan Inquiry Report (Inquiry Report).

The Department of Health considers the Statewide Standardised Clinical Documentation Operational Directive (SSCD OD) as clear in relation to Treatment, Support and Discharge Plans (TSDPs), but acknowledges that working with a dual system using both the PSOLIS database and paper based documents has presented some challenges for Health Service Providers. Ideally, all of the SSCD documents would be implemented onto PSOLIS, but due to the *Mental Health Act 2014* forms taking priority and the extensive PSOLIS program of work, SSCD implementation onto PSOLIS is taking longer than originally anticipated.

The Mental Health Unit is happy to consider specific suggestions to amend/update the SSCD OD, where these changes improve useability, and will update the SSCD OD as required as SSCD documents are implemented onto PSOLIS.

The SSCD policy has been in place for a number of years and the Mental Health Unit has taken a range of measures to communicate information, educate and assist staff on SSCD processes. In addition, writable SSCD PDFs available on the Mental Health Unit's Intranet site allow for the electronic capture of information for those SSCD documents not yet available on PSOLIS.

The Department of Health supports the Mental Health Advocacy Service's recommendation to the Chief Psychiatrist and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists to provide further training on TSDPs and the requirements of the *Mental Health Act 2014* Sections 186-188.

Currently, the Mental Health Unit is coordinating a compliance audit of the key recommendations from Professor Bryant Stokes's 2012 *Review of the admission or referral to and the discharge and transfer practices of public mental health facilities/services in Western Australia*, including SSCD documentation.

It is expected that this will provide further understanding of the issues around the use and recording of SSCD in the mental health services and help the System Manager to provide direction to the Health Service Providers to assist staff in complying with SSCD requirements.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr D J Russell-Weisz  
**DIRECTOR GENERAL**

21 June 2018