



12 July 2018

Ms Debora Colvin
Chief Mental Health Advocate
Mental Health Advocacy Service
6/18 Harvest Terrace
West Perth WA 6005

By email to: contactus@mhas.wa.gov.au

Dear Ms Colvin

Re: Treatment support and discharge plans inquiry

The Western Australia Branch of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP WA Branch), is writing in response to the Mental Health Advocacy Service's inquiry into treatment, support and discharge plans (the Inquiry).

The RANZCP is a membership organisation that prepares doctors to be medical specialists in the field of psychiatry, supports and enhances clinical practice, advocates for people affected by mental illness and advises governments on mental health care. The RANZCP has almost 6000 members including more than 4000 qualified psychiatrists and around 1500 members who are training to qualify as psychiatrists. The RANZCP WA Branch represents over 450 members, more than 340 of whom are qualified psychiatrists.

The RANZCP WA Branch notes that the Inquiry made a number of recommendations, including for the RANZCP to ensure that sufficient training is given to psychiatry trainees about the responsibility of psychiatrists under s186–188 of the Act. In WA, the RANZCP formal education course run by Postgraduate Training in Psychiatry includes training on the Act given by the Chief Psychiatrist. Trainees also complete Entrustable Professional Activities (summative assessments used to measure competence in activities of psychiatric practice) on the Act by the end of the third year of training.

Much of the learning about the Mental Health Acts that are in force across Australia and New Zealand will occur in the workplace. For example, RANZCP psychiatry trainees must spend at least 6 months of their first year of training in an acute inpatient unit so they gain a great deal of exposure to the use of the relevant Mental Health Act. During this time, WA trainees would regularly attend and present at the Mental Health Review Tribunal.

Over the last few years, the continuing professional development (CPD) program for consultants in WA has included sessions with the Chief Psychiatrist regarding varying aspects of the Act. This year's presentation, an update on legislation and boundaries, will be held on 13 August. The RANZCP WA Branch has specifically requested that this session

include training regarding TSDPs. The RANZCP WA Branch will promote compliance with the Act and the training available to psychiatrists through the CPD program in the next RANZCP WA Branch newsletter.

The RANZCP WA Branch believes that the following would be of benefit in the implementation of the Act with regards documentation and we will raise again with the Government and relevant agencies in our regular meetings:

- update of the Statewide Standardised Clinical Documentation (SSCD) to reflect the workflow of the Act
- proper integration of the SSCD with PSOLIS and a reduction in the pathways for documentation and the complexity and volume of paperwork
- consistency in administrative procedures between Health Service Providers and between services within the Health Service Providers
- greater clarity of nomenclature regarding standardised documents
- development of forms clinically appropriate for use in supra-specialty settings (for example older adult mental health)
- consultation with clinicians in the development of clinical forms to ensure that documentation is supporting clinical outcomes as opposed to increasing administrative burden.

The RANZCP WA Branch believes that mental health care must be person-centred and focus on personal recovery in addition to clinical recovery. By requiring patients and any personal support persons to be involved in the preparation and review of the treatment, support and discharge plans, the Act helps to encourage person-centred and recovery-oriented approaches to care across the sector. The RANZCP WA Branch would be supportive of amending the TSDP documentation to support contemporary practice.

I would be pleased to meet with you at your convenience to discuss these matters further. To arrange a meeting to discuss any of the issues raised in this letter, please contact Zoe Carter, WA Branch Policy and Advocacy Advisor via zoe.carter@ranzcp.org or by phone on (08) 9347 6415.

Yours sincerely



Dr Elizabeth Moore
RANZCP, Western Australian Branch Chair