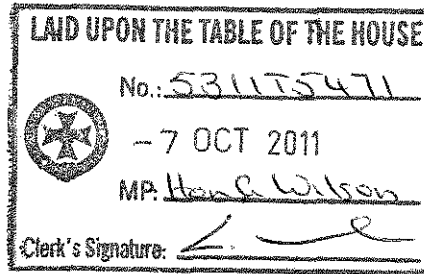




Hon Geoff Wilson
Member for Ferny Grove



Queensland
Government

MI177541

7 - OCT 2011

Minister for Health

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition no. 1765-11, tabled in Parliament on 7 September 2011, concerning a request for the establishment of an Alcohol and Drug Advisory Committee to the Minister for Health consisting of representatives from relevant Government agencies and community sector agencies.

The Petition requests the establishment of an Alcohol and Drug Advisory Committee to the Minister for Health consisting of representatives from relevant Government agencies and community sector agencies.

The Queensland Government is committed to building safe and healthy communities by minimising alcohol, tobacco and other drug related health, social and economic harm to Queenslanders. The achievement of this is dependent on the active involvement of relevant Government agencies and non-government agencies in all aspects of planning, implementation and evaluation.

Queensland Health has worked hard to provide opportunities to receive advice from across government, non-government and the university sectors to guide collaborative, evidence informed practice and care for those with substance use problems. A number of strategic committees are in place to inform action at the State and local levels. These include:

- the Alcohol and Other Drugs Services Improvement Group;
- the Alcohol, Other Drugs and Mental Health Collaborative;
- the Alcohol and Other Drugs Diversion Strategic Treatment Reference Group; and
- the Queensland Drug Co-ordinating Committee.

Queensland Health has welcomed Ms Margi O'Connell-Hood, Chief Executive Officer of the peak body, Queensland Network of Alcohol & Drug Agencies (QNADA), on the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Service Improvement Group and the Alcohol, Other Drugs and Mental Health Collaborative. These committees are tasked with informing alcohol and drug policies and practice reforms, guiding investments in workforce development, and strengthening clinical governance systems to meet the complex needs of people throughout Queensland with substance use issues. Representation on the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Service Improvement Group ensures that QNADA are able to work with senior managers from Queensland Health agencies in metropolitan, regional and remote locations to improve immediate treatment and longer term care.

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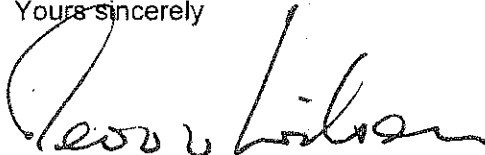
The Alcohol, Other Drugs and Mental Health Collaborative is particularly focused on the delivery of coordinated care that will improve the outcomes for those with co-occurring mental health and substance use problems. The committee is co-chaired by Dr Robert Bell and Dr Jeremy Hayllar and comprises representatives from QNADA, consumers and carers, the academic sector and Queensland Health agencies throughout Queensland. This work is complemented by that of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Diversion Strategic Treatment Reference Group which draws on expertise from across Government and academic sectors to break the cycle by diverting people with a drug problem from the justice system into the treatment they need to make a difference to their health and future outcomes.

In response to the recommendations of the Parliamentary Social Development Committee, Queensland Drug Coordinating Committee also invites other Government agencies and community sector agencies to advise it on set aspects of high level Queensland drug policy when needed. The Queensland Drug Coordinating Committee, chaired by Queensland Health, brings together representatives from eight Government departments with a role to play in reducing drug demand, illegal supply, and the harms to individuals and the broader community resulting from alcohol, tobacco and other drug use.

Queensland Health will continue to consult and work closely with the non-government and private providers to meet the huge challenges associated with substance use throughout Queensland.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



GEOFF WILSON MP
Minister for Health