

4 December 2018

Waitematā DHB welcomes Inquiry recommendations

Waitematā DHB welcomes today's release by the Government of the Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction.

The independent Inquiry was launched in January 2018 – calling for written and oral feedback from the public, various entities and Government departments.

Waitematā DHB was among those that responded with a substantial submission that represented the views of numerous sub-services and associated stakeholder groups.

The DHB also hosted one of multiple Inquiry meetings held up and down the country through the course of the public consultation period.

“We are largest provider of mental health services in the country by volume of service-users seen – so our interest in this Inquiry and our desire to be at the forefront of change has been paramount since day one,” Waitematā DHB Director of Mental Health Dr Susanna Galea-Singer says.

“The Inquiry heard from a broad range of people including service-users their families, whanau and clinical staff. The discussion has been robust and the resulting 40 recommendations cover a broad range of issues.

“Waitematā DHB is committed to working with that feedback, via the findings of the Inquiry, to streamline pathways for people seeking treatment within our service and further improve the mental health and wellbeing of our community.

“Our own submission to the inquiry advocated for co-ordinated care in a sector that provides choice while still being responsive and easy to navigate for those needing help.

“We called for a system that would help those currently struggling to seek assistance to know where to go - and to do so earlier.

“Today's report supports our view and our ongoing efforts to help those who matter the most – our clients, their families and whānau who need to engage with our services.”

The Ministry of Health has established a working group to advise the Government on how best to respond to the Inquiry's recommendations.

“We look forward to working with the group on a transformation programme that will address equity and achieve better outcomes for people with mental health and addiction needs,” Dr Galea-Singer says.

ENDS

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