



17 December 2021

Julia Heffernan
Project Officer
Organisation Wide Mental Health
Mental Health, Justice Health, Alcohol and Drug Services

Email: Julia.heffernan@act.gov.au

Dear Julia

I am writing to provide feedback into the CHS Procedure Cognitive Impairment (Delirium and Dementia) and Deteriorating Mental State document following an invitation to do so.

The Network welcomes this opportunity to contribute to the CHS Procedure. As our feedback is brief we have provided our feedback in this letter.

The wording and the provisions of the *Mental Health Act 2015 (ACT)*, the Act, should be included in this document where appropriate, such as pages six to nine. The Act provides mental health consumers with the ability to complete forms to put in place the following supports for when they become unwell:

- Advance Agreement;
- Advance Consent Direction; and
- Nominated Person.

It is important that these instruments are noted in the procedure in all relevant places. A consumer's nominated person is a trusted person they have identified should they lack decision making capacity or need assistance regarding their mental health treatment. The Advance Agreement and Advance Consent Direction provide essential information about a consumer's treatment, care and other details of importance. All three of these instruments, if in place, are noted on a consumer's hospital record in case of future need. As an inpatient, a consumer's Nominated Person is the appropriate person to contact,

rather than a listed next of kin who may no longer be current. A consumer's Advance Agreement and Advance Consent Direction provide details as to who can and cannot be contacted when a person presents for hospital care and treatment.

While consumers appreciate this procedure may be written as an internal procedure document, they emphasise that it should ideally be written in plain language to ensure ease of understanding for all staff. In addition, the table on page 15 includes a great deal of text and is difficult to read due to dark shading in the background and the amount of information included. Breaking this information down would aid in the readability of this important information.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comment on this procedure.

Yours sincerely



Jen Nixon
A/g Chief Executive Officer