



ACT Mental Health Consumer Network Inc.  
2.11 Griffin Centre  
20 Genge Street  
Canberra ACT 2601

19 May 2023

Anna Grealy  
Strategy and Governance  
Canberra Health Services  
Canberra Hospital  
[anna.grealy@act.gov.au](mailto:anna.grealy@act.gov.au)

Dear Anna

**Review of Canberra Health Services Clinical Procedure:  
Care of persons subject to Psychiatric Treatment Orders (PTOs) with or  
without a Restriction Order (RO)**

This letter has been prepared by the ACT Mental Health Consumer Network (the Network) in response to the invitation from Canberra Health Services (CHS). It incorporates both written and verbal feedback received from consumers in relation to the Canberra Health Services Clinical Procedure: Care of persons subject to Psychiatric Treatment Orders (PTOs) with or without a Restriction Order (RO) (the PTO procedure).

The Network welcomes the invitation to provide feedback on the PTO procedure. With the PTO procedure representing one part of a set of procedures that operate across and between CHS and ACAT, consumer feedback focused on the rights and support of persons subject to PTOs.

Consumers highlighted the importance of Advance Agreements (AA), Advance Consent Directions (ACD) and Nominated Persons (NP) for ensuring that the rights and decisions of persons subject to a PTO are upheld throughout the process. Because of this, consumers proposed that when an application for a PTO is

submitted, CHS should ascertain if the person for whom an application has been made also has an AA, ACP and/or NP. Consumers placed a heavy emphasis on this due to the potential for inappropriate care to inadvertently exacerbate a person's condition and result in unnecessary escalations.

Consumers noted that being subject to a PTO process is very stressful and is likely to exacerbate a person's condition. Consequently, consumers stressed that PTO procedures must be completed in as timely a manner as possible. Furthermore, consumers proposed that, where delays arise, the person subject to the PTO application should be provided with additional support from CHS and/or referred to free community services that can assist them with fulfilling their responsibilities per the PTO procedure.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us on 02 6230 5796 or [policy@actmhcncn.org.au](mailto:policy@actmhcncn.org.au).

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide feedback on the PTO procedure. The Network looks forward to receiving further consultation requests in future.

Yours sincerely



Dalane Drexler  
Chief Executive Officer  
ACT Mental Health Consumer Network Inc.