

E Bulletin – Special Edition

**Carers Information and Consultation Forum – Draft Mental Health Act
Tuesday 28 August 2012, Quality Hotel Woden 5.15-7.15pm**

**Mental Health Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services (MHJHADS) Redesign Project -
Survey of Mental Health Carers**

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**Carers ACT and ACT Health Directorate
are pleased to invite you to this forum to
provide you with an opportunity to learn
more about and provide feedback on the
exposure draft of a new ACT Mental
Health (Treatment and Care) Act.**

The ACT Government has now released the First Exposure Draft of the Mental Health (Treatment and Care) Act for public consultation. This document, which is the results of years of consultation and deliberation, suggests significant changes to current mental health legislation in the ACT, in recognition of changes affecting the mental health field in recent years, including the move toward a recovery focus in mental health services and national and international change in mental health law to consider a person's

decision making capacity when deciding treatment.

At this forum carers will get an explanation of the proposed amendments to the Act and have an opportunity to give feedback and make suggestions. The feedback gathered at this forum and several public meetings will help inform the Second Exposure Draft of the Act, which is planned for release towards the end of 2012.

On 22 August 2012, the exposure draft documents will become available on the Chief Minister's and Cabinet Directorate community engagement website 'Time to Talk' at <http://timetotalk.act.gov.au>, or in limited numbers of hard copies from ACT Government Shopfronts and Libraries, Mental Health Community Coalition and Mental Health Consumer Network, and Carers ACT.

The First Exposure Draft Documents comprise:

- An overview of the recommendations
- The Draft Amendment Bill
- Draft Explanatory Statement
- A mock-up of the draft revised Mental Health Act

Consultation on this draft Bill commences on 22nd August and runs for 6 weeks until 2 October 2012.

Online, email and hard mail feedback will be accepted, as well as feedback at meetings. Feedback can be provided by email to mentalhealth.policy@act.gov.au (subject line: *Mental Health Act Review Feedback*) and by mail to *Mental Health Act Review Feedback*, GPO Box 825, CANBERRA CITY ACT 2605.

The ACT Government has indicated that further work will be done on the issue of carers input to treatment planning and access to information for the next exposure draft.

Please join us for this carers information and consultation forum on Tuesday 28 August 2012, 5.15-7.15pm, in the Conference Centre, Quality Hotel Woden, corner of Melrose Drive and Launceston Street, Woden. Refreshments will be provided. There is no cost to attend this forum. To RSVP please contact Carers ACT on mhcarers@carersact.org.au or phone 6296 9900/9952.

Mental Health Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services (MHJHADS) Redesign Project - Survey of Mental Health Carers

Carers ACT is working together with the ACT Health Directorate (Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services) to inform a redesign project at Canberra Hospital and Health Services on access, transfer and discharge processes and planning in Mental Health. The redesign project is utilising a person-centred, recovery focused approach to Mental Health, and understands the major role played by family and Carers in the recovery process.

The aim of the project is to consult with key stakeholders, including Carers, to determine if people in need are being provided with appropriate clinical services.

There are eight major questions in this survey, which have several sub-questions. The survey will remain open for two weeks. We recognise that this is quite a lengthy survey. However, your input and feedback on these questions is very much appreciated and your comments will also be of assistance to Carers ACT in writing its own response to these reforms.

Your response to this survey will remain anonymous. We thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. You may access the survey [here](#).