



Annette McMullan

President



Mental Health Review Tribunal



MHRT COMMUNIQUE

Issue 6, 2020

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE:

New Health Minister

Many of you will have seen in the news that there has been a change in the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services in Queensland. The Hon Yvette D'Ath is now the Minister holding the portfolio which includes the MHRT and you can read more about the Minister's experience here: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/members/current/list/MemberDetails?ID=292739608>.

Mandatory WH&S training

The recording for the mandatory WH&S masterclass is available online in the members-only section of the MHRT website. To access the recording, you will need to log in to the members-only section and click on "Masterclasses" from the menu on the left side of the page. We ask that all members who did not view the live session via Blackboard, watch the recording prior to **30 November 2020**.

Please remember, all members should email Corporate_Services@mhrt.qld.gov.au to confirm they have viewed the session (whether this was live via Blackboard or via the recording). Members will be paid 1 hour's fee for viewing the presentation.

Member Bios

Thank you to those members who have already submitted a short member bio for publication on the members-only portal of the MHRT website. It is great to read them and remember what an experienced and knowledgeable group of members we have. Please continue to send your member bios in to Kimberley.kiehne@mhrt.qld.gov.au. Once we have a sufficient number, we will publish them online.

Book exchange

We see that we have a number of members swapping novels and other books when they sit together in the office. Members should feel free to start a book exchange out of the Members Lounge (thank you for the suggestion Judith McDonnell!). We will make one of the shelves on the bookcase in the Members Lounge a sharing shelf. Members are welcome to borrow and return books from that shelf. Members are also welcome to donate books for the exchange. However, please be mindful that we only have limited room and other members are unlikely to want to read your National Geographic Magazines dating back to 1975.

Passing of Colin Livesey

We are sorry to inform you of the unexpected passing of Mr Colin Livesey earlier this month. Many members will know Colin from his work as a Forensic Liaison Officer (FLO) at Caboolture, having moved there from Mackay. Colin was well-liked and respected by staff and patients. Members will remember Colin as being always well prepared and willingly participating in MHRT hearings. There are temporary arrangements in place by Caboolture until a permanent replacement is found.

Audio recording project

A report of the outcomes of Phase 2 of the MHRT's audio recording project – the live trial – is now available on the MHRT website <https://www.mhrt.qld.gov.au/information-about/electronic-audio-recording-project>. You will see that while overall the trial was considered successful, there are some practical issues for the MHRT to continue to finesse, such as training for members on



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placement of microphones and determination of which member would operate the recording.

During the trial, the MHRT kept a record of how many people declined to provide consent for the hearing to be recorded. The statistics on that is contained in the report, together with reasons for the refusal. You will note that the report comments on the quality of the recording. These quality assessments have been made in-house at MHRT only and do not reflect whether the recording quality is sufficient for any third-party transcription service.

The next step for the MHRT is to continue to liaise with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General about the best way forward. We will keep you updated on our progress in that regard.

Reminder: all members are invited to join us at The Pav Bar (39 Edward Street, Brisbane City) on Friday 4 December from 5pm to celebrate the end of the year. Annette and Virginia will provide some nibbles and, similar to last year, everyone can purchase their own drinks. We hope that you can join us.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S UPDATE:

Hearings:

EA emails now from Enquiry

For those members who are hearing Examination Authorities you may have noticed that emails are now being sent from our Enquiry account. This is due to emails being sent to external applicants as well as allowing different staff members to have access to a shared inbox.

Sitting as 4th member

Please note that if you are sitting as a 4th member you are paid at member rate, not presiding member rate.

ECT's

Some members have recently asked why ECT hearings are listed for 30 minutes. Often the most efficient means of listing these types of matters is to utilise gaps in hearing lists where TA's have been revoked. While the HC Team make their best endeavours to list ECT hearings for 45 minutes, we cannot always accommodate this due to the legislative timeframes for listing.

When considering a 2nd opinion for an ECT application, please note this does not need to be from a psychiatrist. The Mental Health Court has said that the second opinion needs to be from "*a doctor who has examined the patient*".

Decisions

With recent upgrades of our Resolve system and portal, there is no need for members to change the file name of decisions before uploading onto the portal. In fact, this can cause issues with the automation of sending decisions to parties. All decisions can remain saved as **Surname.Decision.Date** so the system recognises the file and there are no delays with processing.

Hearing Room Numbers

We have had a few instances recently where members have arrived at the MHRT office early and set up for hearings in the wrong rooms. Members will now find their correct hearing room number on the whiteboard near the SHC pod for easy reference. If you are ever unsure of where you are sitting please feel free to ask.

Return to in person hearings

As we return to more in person hearings across the different venues, we ask Members to please advise us if they are vulnerable and cannot return to services in person.



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Christmas shutdown

The MHRT office will be closed from 5pm Thursday 24 December and will reopen on Monday 4 January 2021, with the exception of 30 December where we will have Oncall and EA panels sitting remotely and skeleton staff working in the office and from home.

We would very much appreciate those members who are sitting in the lead-up to the break uploading their decisions and material as quickly as possible (particularly the adjourned matters which need relisting) so these can be actioned before the last hearing day of 18 December.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Bronwyn Green, who is acting in the Executive Officer role while Jade Madden is on leave. Corporate Services may also be able to assist you with any queries you have.

Corporate Services:

Photo ID

Please take a moment to check the expiry date on your MHRT photo ID card and email Corporate_Services@mhrt.qld.gov.au if you require a new card to be ordered.

Expense claims and mileage claims

With the Christmas period fast approaching, please forward any expense or mileage claims for processing **no later than COB on 7 December 2020** so they can be processed before the shutdown. Any claims received after this time will be processed when staff return in January.

Member Appointments

The Tribunal is now advertising for Member Appointments due to commence in August 2021. Applications will be accepted **up until midnight on 15 December 2020**.

Link to advertisement:

<https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-EA358131>.