



Hon Steven Miles MP
Minister for Health and
Minister for Ambulance Services

13 JUN 2018

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 2903-18, tabled in Parliament on 15 May 2018, in relation to alcohol and domestic violence – shared models of care.

The petition proposes consideration of shared models of care between alcohol and other drug (AOD) providers and family violence services. The Queensland Government recognises that an association can exist between problematic AOD use and the severity and frequency of domestic and family violence. AOD services funded and delivered by Queensland Health consider an individual's needs and family circumstance as part of assessment and treatment planning, and work closely with relevant support services to ensure that individuals and their families receive appropriate support.

It is acknowledged that individuals and families presenting across service sectors can have a significant range of complex needs and models of care that address a range of co-occurring needs are valuable and should be considered further across government and related sectors as part of coordinated services system planning.

Connecting care to recovery: A plan for Queensland's state funded mental health and AOD services 2016-2021 (Connecting care to recovery) identifies the ongoing need to work across government to develop innovative cross-agency models of service delivery for individuals with mental health and AOD issues. *Connecting care to recovery* also acknowledges ongoing work to bridge service gaps and establish and expand more evidence-based, integrated and flexible models of service. Queensland Health has invested \$350 million over five years to support implementation of *Connecting care to recovery*, and ongoing service planning will continue to focus on better ways to meet the needs of people with complex and co-occurring needs in more integrated ways across service sectors.

Queensland Health is currently working with the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women to support the recruitment of a Clinical Practice Leader (AOD) to complement an existing Clinical Practice Leader (Mental Health), in order to focus on better supporting Child Safety officers to respond to families experiencing mental health and/or AOD issues.

Additionally, *Action on Ice: The Queensland Government's plan to address use and harms caused by crystal methamphetamine*, will deliver a number of cross-agency initiatives aimed at addressing the impact of ice on families and communities. For example, the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women has funded Family Recovery Units in the Logan area that will provide AOD residential rehabilitation for families in which substance use is undermining the capacity to care for children. In some instances, domestic and family violence will also be a factor in these households.

The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women is also funding the Breakthrough for Families program which will provide information and advice to families and friends of people who use ice and other substances. The program educates participants about the physical impact of various drugs, helps families develop strategies for supporting their loved ones, and informs them about pathways to treatment. Funded providers will work closely with family support and domestic and family violence services to ensure clear referral pathways into the program.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Miles', with a stylized flourish at the end.

STEVEN MILES MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services