

TERMS OF REFERENCE

FORENSIC SERVICES IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY – THE NEED FOR SERVICE REFORM

PURPOSE

To commission a Service Reform Project (the Project) for the evaluation of the systems, processes, service delivery models and legal provisions required to meet the clinical needs of clients who require the specialist expertise of Forensic Mental Health and Disability Services in the Northern Territory. Such services are currently provided through the Forensic Mental Health Team and the Office of Disability.

The Service Reform Project will consider the needs of

- Clients who are subject to Part IIA of the Criminal Code (including both Custodial and Non-Custodial Supervision Orders)
- Clients detained by Correctional Services who have mental illness or mental disturbance
- Community based clients who require ongoing support of a specialist forensic nature (including those with disability)
- Other clients who may require the specialist input of such services not covered by the above.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Service Reform Project are:

1. To develop contemporary models of care and associated policies for all clients using forensic health services, including those with disability.
2. To review the capacity of the specialist forensic services to meet the needs of those clients in custodial and community based settings (including mental health wards), juvenile detention centres, and in the community.
3. To consider and reform as necessary the arrangements by which clients charged with serious offences and where there are concerns about incapacity due to mental illness or impairment are progressed through the legal and health care systems, including ongoing clinical care and reporting requirements.
4. This will include a consideration of the adequacy of systems and processes to assess and manage risk, and the development and implementation of risk management strategies for mentally disturbed or cognitively impaired clients.
5. To review and advise on the current and future accommodation provisions in NT for clients under supervision orders, including that it is culturally safe and recovery focused, whilst also addressing security needs.
6. To develop and implement appropriate clinical governance frameworks for the programs working within these specialist areas.

The Project will be carried out a by a Service Reform Team, and will provide recommendations about strategic developments required to deliver a comprehensive, contemporary and evidence based service model.

It is proposed that the Service Reform Team be created and led by a consultant with expertise in the field of forensic services and service re-design.

The Service Reform Team will consider the above with regard to the *Mental Health and Related Services Act*, and the *Criminal Code* of the Northern Territory, as well as other contemporary relevant legislation.

The work of the Project Team will be overseen by a Steering Committee. A particular focus of the Steering Committee will be to ensure the cultural appropriateness of all recommendations. Membership will include representatives from government organisations, and forensic mental health and disability services sectors.

Stakeholder engagement will be integral to the work of the team and will include professionals in the following areas:

- Mental health services
- Disability services
- Justice system
- Corrections
- Primary Health Care
- Territory Families
- Community based not for profit service providers
- Consumer and Carer Representatives
- Other key stakeholders.