

## Public Submission Cover Sheet

Please complete this sheet and submit with any attachments to the Sustainable Health Review Secretariat

### Your Personal Details

*This information will be used only for contacting you in relation to this submission*

<b>Title</b>	Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Dr <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Organisation</b>	State Forensic Mental Health Service
<b>First Name(s)</b>	Edward
<b>Surname</b>	Petch
<b>Contact Details</b>	██

### Publication of Submissions

*Please note all Public Submissions will be published unless otherwise selected below*

- I do not want my submission published
- I would like my submission to be published but remain anonymous

### Submission Guidance

**You are encouraged to address the following question:**

**In the context of the Sustainable Health Review Terms of Reference listed below, what is needed to develop a more sustainable, patient centred health system in WA?**

- Leveraging existing investment in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary healthcare, as well as new initiatives to improve patient centred service delivery, pathways and transition;
- The mix of services provided across the system, including gaps in service provision, sub-acute, step-down, community and other out-of-hospital services across WA to deliver care in the most appropriate setting and to maximise health outcomes and value to the public;
- Ways to encourage and drive digital innovation, the use of new technology, research and data to support patient centred care and improved performance;
- Opportunities to drive partnerships across sectors and all levels of government to reduce duplication and to deliver integrated and coordinated care;
- Ways to drive improvements in safety and quality for patients, value and financial sustainability, including cost drivers, allocative and technical efficiencies;
- The key enablers of new efficiencies and change, including, research, productivity, teaching and training, culture, leadership development, procurement and improved performance monitoring;
- Any further opportunities concerning patient centred service delivery and the sustainability of the WA health system.

### Submissions Response Field

***Please type your response into the field below. Alternatively you may provide your submissions as a separate attachment (Suggested Maximum 5 pages).***

Please ensure the physical and mental health of everyone in the criminal justice system are included in the review. They are often neglected. There has been significant under investment in health services available to prisoners, despite a high rate of unmet health needs. It is important to address these, because:

- Prisoner populations are characterised by disadvantage, stigmatisation, social exclusion and poor physical and mental health.
- Prisoners should have access to services of a range and quality equivalent to that in the community (the principle of equivalence).
- There has been a very significant increase in the WA prison population in the last few years
- Prisoners have substantially higher rates of physical and mental disorder than the general community, and high rates of mortality, morbidity and service use after release.
- Most prisoners are released: not providing adequate healthcare is a false economy, as many will become high users of services after release
- 40% of prisoners are of Aboriginal origin, many from remote and rural areas.
- Prison presents an opportunity for health intervention.
- Providing treatment to ill prisoners is ethical and humane and serves the public interest as they may be less likely to re-offend if they have engaged in treatment, rehabilitation and aftercare. Untreated mental disorder in particular may lead to longer incarceration, enhanced risk of recidivism and ill health.
- The likely payoff for a public health investment during the window of opportunity presented by the presence of a high-risk health population in a controlled environment would in all likelihood far exceed the investment.
- The development of health services for prisoners, particularly mental health services are far behind those in other Australian States and territories, and other comparable jurisdictions.

A Justice Health project between the Department of Health, Department of Justice and the Mental Health Commission is exploring options for the future governance of Correctional Healthcare, and aims to bring it more in alignment with the Department of Health.

Irrespective of the outcome of this project, significant further investment is required to ensure that the access of healthcare to prisoners is equivalent to that of the community, and that the multiple gaps in healthcare provision are addressed. This is particularly the case for forensic mental health.