

# Introducing our new *Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022*

Coming into law on 1 September 2023





- Emphasis on **freedom, inclusion, lived experience**, and rights-based principles.
- Underpins a major transformation of the whole mental health and wellbeing sector and is focused on the human rights, dignity and autonomy of consumers, their families and carers, and collaboration between all.

- Align with diverse and growing community.
- Person and family inclusive.
- Clear and flexible pathways.
- Early intervention and prevention.
- Value lived experience.

- We communicate effectively with patients, family and carers to enable shared decision-making.
- Care is coordinated actively and progressed without delay.
- Hospital admission is for those that cannot receive care in the community.
- Patients and consumers are provided with timely senior decision-making.

- Safe, high quality and timely care.
- Humility, respect, kindness and compassion in high performing teams.
- Orientate care towards community.
- Experiences that exceed expectations.



# The 13 Principles of Care

- These **13 principles** guide our approach to creating quality, safe and effective consumer experiences of care in mental health.



# Some of the changes we can expect to see:

While many things will not change, the introduction of the Act will mean a range of adjustments to the way services are delivered, including:

- Changes to the duration of Community Treatment Orders
- Introduction of Chemical Restraint reporting
- Changes to Advance Statement of Preferences
- Advocacy is opt out not opt in





# Challenges and opportunities

As we adjust our services, we are working through the following challenges:

- Creating awareness about the Act, and its implications.
- Understanding and responding to consumer questions and expectations.
- Evaluating and responding to workload impacts.
- Managing increased demand on services and teams.
- Putting measures in place to ensure our teams feel safe, informed and supported through the change.
- New processes and workflows.
- Adapting our systems and technology.
- Adjusting to new ways of collaborating with consumer advocates.
- Protecting rights of consumers and clinicians under new laws.
- Safeguarding our organisation.
- Adapting to Department of Health directives, as new information and requirements are released.



# What you need to do

- ✓ Talk to your teams
- ✓ Read our Frequently Asked Questions
- ✓ Complete Latte training modules
- ✓ Read the Department of Health's Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022 information, the *Handbook* and *Obligations under the Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022*
- ✓ View the Chief Psychiatrist Guidelines
- ✓ Contact us if you have questions or need any support:
- ✓ [Leah.Walton@monashhealth.org](mailto:Leah.Walton@monashhealth.org) [Martin.Preston@monashhealth.org](mailto:Martin.Preston@monashhealth.org)

## All resources at:

<https://coronavirus.monashhealth.org/latest-news/2023/08/23/mental-health-and-wellbeing-act-2022>

## The Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022 comes into law on 1 September: are you ready?

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Posted at 8:40pm on 23 August 2023 in iNews, Latest news by Communication and Engagement

Our mental health sector will begin a journey of transformative change with Victoria's Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022 coming into law on 1 September 2023.

The Act is a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System and emphasises freedom, inclusion, lived experience, and rights-based principles and collaboration among treating teams, consumers, and families.

To ensure you are prepared for the change, we invite you to read our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about the Act and to look at each of the below resources.

Impacted teams will also be invited to complete online training modules and attend information sessions to ensure they are ready for key changes stemming from the new Act.

If you have any questions, please contact Leah Walton, Act Implementation Lead at [Leah.Walton@monashhealth.org](mailto:Leah.Walton@monashhealth.org) or 0419 847 096 or Dr Martin Preston, Reform Team Medical Lead at [Martin.Preston@monashhealth.org](mailto:Martin.Preston@monashhealth.org) or 0407 521 197.

### Resources

- [Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Latte training modules: Introduction of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022](#)
- [Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022: \*Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022\* | health.vic.gov.au](#)
- [Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022 Handbook: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/mental-health-and-wellbeing-act>](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/mental-health-and-wellbeing-act)
- [Obligations under the Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/chief-psychiatrist/obligations-under-the-mental-health-and-wellbeing-act-2022>](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/chief-psychiatrist/obligations-under-the-mental-health-and-wellbeing-act-2022)
- [Chief Psychiatrist Guidelines: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/chief-psychiatrist/chief-psychiatrist-guidelines>](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/chief-psychiatrist/chief-psychiatrist-guidelines)

Approved by Andrew Perta, Interim Chief Operating Officer, Aged, Community and Mental Health