

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

Title Mr Miss Mrs Ms Dr Other

Organisation Devenish Lodge

First Name(s) Adrian

Surname Hobley

Contact Details [REDACTED]

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).

Robyn Kruk, AM, Chair
Independent Panel
Sustainable Health Review
Department of Health (WA)

Dear Ms Kruk

Accommodation of People With Chronic Severe Mental Illness

I am the Licensee of Devenish Lodge, which is a Licensed Private Psychiatric Hostel (LPPH). Devenish Lodge receives subsidies from the Mental Health Commission (MHC) to provide supported accommodation services and assistance with personal care to Residents with chronic moderate to severe psychiatric illness.

Over the past years there has been an attitude within the MHC that LPPHs are inappropriate for the accommodation of people with mental illness, and most hostels have closed down.

The closure of LPPH's imposes a significant additional burden on the State as a result of a need to re-accommodate residents. Where that is not achieved, residents are at risk of homelessness, clinical deterioration and admission to hospital. The impending closure of the LPPH Franciscan House is illustrative of this impact. Franciscan House is due to close by December 2017. It currently accommodates 65 residents, 63 of whom have very high care needs. Other LPPH's are generally operating at capacity and have a limited ability to provide alternative accommodation to those residents. LPPH's licenses are not assignable, so that they cannot be sold as going concerns. This operates as a disincentive for expansion or renovation, and inevitably means that the currently operating LPPH's will close once the current licensees no longer wish to operate them

Contrary to the views of the MHC and Mental Health Advocacy Service (MHAS), the LPPHs are very cost effective and provide excellent service to our clients. Once admitted to LPPH, Residents are provided with a stable, safe living environment. Their medications are administered, they are properly fed and clothed, their finances are managed, their personal care and hygiene improves, they receive regular medical and dental attention and are attended and monitored by mental health nurses and psychiatrists.

This almost invariably results in stabilisation of their mental illness, improvement in physical health and a feeling of well-being and happiness. Admissions to hospital are dramatically reduced. Substance abuse diminishes. Criminal activity ceases.

The operations of LPPHs result in very low admission rates to public hospitals and thereby result in very substantial cost savings to Health (around \$1,500 per person per day). The cost to the Health Department of accommodating and managing people in LPPHs is substantially lower than any other currently available option. The daily subsidy is currently between \$12.64 to \$35.16 per person (depending on their assessed support needs) represents excellent value to the public health services.

The MHC has sought to require LPPH's to devise and implement individual models of clinical care for their residents. This demands that LPPH's provide a clinical service which is beyond the scope of services they are equipped to provide and would render the operation of LPPH's financially non-viable. Plans for the care of residents are the domain of their treating psychiatrists. Those plans are supported by LPPH's providing safe and supportive accommodation and personal care services, including the timely administration of prescribed medication and supervision of residents.

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).

Should you wish to visit Devenish Lodge and speak to our Residents I would be happy to arrange this.

I thank you for the opportunity to contribute.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Hoble

Licensee, Devenish Lodge