



Oakden Older Persons Mental Health Service

The Oakden - A Shameful Chapter in South Australia's History-A Report Independent Commissioner Against Corruption (ICAC) (2018) some 312, pages was prepared as a consequence of an investigation carried out by The Hon Bruce Lander QC, into potential serious or systemic maladministration in public administration associated with the Oakden Older Persons Mental Health Service (Oakden Facility).

The consumers who resided at the Oakden Facility were some of the most frail and vulnerable persons in our community. They were obliged to live in a facility which could only be described as a disgrace, and in which they received very poor care. The report highlighted systemic failings in processes and oversight that allowed the events at the Oakden Facility to occur for more than a decade largely without intervention.

Key findings:

- Findings of maladministration have been made against five individuals and the authority responsible for the facility (Northern Adelaide Local Health Network - NALHN).
- Senior people, including Ministers and Chief Executives, who were responsible by virtue of their office for the delivery of care and services to the consumers at the Oakden Facility, should have known what was going on but did not. However, the evidence does not support a finding of maladministration in respect of any of them.
- Mr Lander has made 13 recommendations-these and the report should be considered by all public officers in positions of authority as there are salient lessons to be learned



HCASA oversight role

HCASA supported the 13 recommendations made in the ICAC Oakden report and was an active partner and member of the implementation and review of the recommendations of the Oakden Report.

HCASA was invited to be a key member of the SA Health Oakden Response Plan Oversight Committee established in June 2017, with the purpose of implementing the six recommendations outlined in the Oakden Report undertaken by the Chief Psychiatrist.

The Oversight committee established six expert working groups to address each recommendation:

- *Statewide Model of Care group*
- *New building group*
- *New Staffing Model group*
- *Quality and Safety governance group*
- *Culture and Values for Leaders group*
- *Restrictive Practices group*

HCASA recruited numerous consumers and carers with capabilities to participate in each of these groups, and associated workshops, interviews and surveys, focussed on achieving contemporary services which are centred on consumers, their families and carers.

In 2017 HCASA partnered with NALHN on a project designed to put consumers at the centre of all NALHN services and aligned with recommendation 11- that the role of the Consumer Advisor be reviewed.

What happened at the Oakden Facility should never happen again. HCASA continued to advocate and contribute to policy making at the health system level, to ensure that all health consumers receive quality, safe, consumer-centred care.

Note: Referenced document can be accessed on the HCASA website Key Documents @ www.hcasa.asn.au