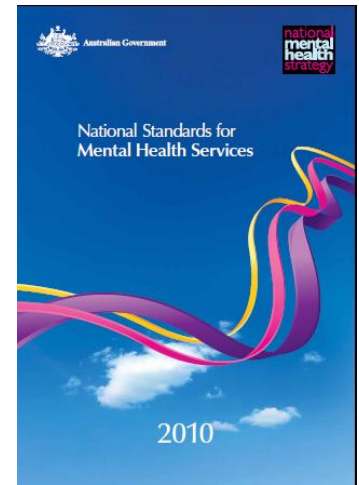


National Standards for Mental Health Services 2010

INFORMATION SHEET

OCTOBER 2010



The revised National Standards for Mental Health Services were released by the Australian Government's Department of Health and Ageing in September 2010.

This initial information sheet has been developed for stakeholders to introduce the revised Standards, and outline plans for their distribution within NSW.

Why have the National Standards for Mental Health Services been revised?

The National Standards for Mental Health Services were originally developed in 1996 with the endorsement and support of the Australian Government and State and Territory Health Ministers.

Since this time, the context in which mental health services are delivered has changed. In recognition of this, a review was commenced in 2006 in consultation with the sector, and with consumers and carers. The recently released Standards are the outcome of this review.

What are the key changes that have been made to the Standards?

The addition of a recovery focused standard.

The Recovery Standard highlights the requirement to incorporate recovery principles into service delivery, culture and practice to better reflect contemporary mental health practices.

For further information, contact:

Rochelle Kelly, Senior Policy Officer, Clinical Governance
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Expansion of the applicability of the Standards.

The Standards now apply to the broad range of mental health services that make up the mental health sector. This includes bed based and community mental health services, those in the clinical and non-government sectors, those in the private sector and also those in primary care and general practice.

How can I get a copy of the Standards?

The Standards are available electronically on the website of the [Department of Health and Ageing \(DOHA\)](http://www.health.gov.au) at www.health.gov.au. If you are viewing this information sheet electronically, you can click on the hyperlink below to download the Standards directly.

National Standards for Mental Health Services 2010

Hard copies of the Standards are currently being printed by DOHA and will be provided to NSW Health for distribution to key NSW stakeholders prior to the end of 2010. Orders for further copies will be able to be placed through either the NSW Health or the DOHA mailing houses.

Will accreditation of services be linked with their ability to meet the Standards?

The Standards will be incorporated into the relevant service accreditation programs and to support this, a National Forum is being held in December 2010 with relevant accreditation bodies from all States and Territories to discuss implications for accreditation.

However, the Standards represent only one component of the different quality, safety and performance frameworks that influence service delivery across the health and community sector.

What support is available to guide implementation of the Standards by services?

There are three Implementation Guideline documents that provide more detail to inform the implementation of the Standards, which are aimed at the following service sector groups:

- public mental health services and private hospitals
- community (non government) organisations
- private office based mental health services

The Guidelines provide clear directions for mental health services on how the criteria of the Standards apply to different services, and will be available shortly.



NSW Health will also be consulting with key stakeholder groups in NSW over the next six months to determine what other resources or support may be required.

National Standards for Mental Health Services 2010

Poster & Video Competition

Design a poster or video to promote the National Standards for a chance to win great cash prizes!

Email Kathryn Sequoia on Kathryn.Sequoia@act.gov.au for a copy of the National Standards 2010 Poster & Video Competition Guidelines and an entry form.

ENTRIES CLOSE 1 DECEMBER 2010



First prize for
each category
\$2,000

KEY MESSAGES

1. The revised National Standards for Mental Health Services were released in September 2010.
2. The key changes to the 2010 Standards are:
 - The addition of a Recovery Standard; and
 - The expansion of the applicability of the 2010 Standards.
3. The range of services that the 2010 Standards are now applicable to include:
 - the public health system (inpatient, rehabilitation and community) and private hospitals;
 - private office based providers; and
 - NGOs.
4. An electronic copy of the 2010 Standards can be accessed via the [Department of Health and Ageing \(DOHA\)](#) website, or by opening the following hyperlink:
[National Standards for Mental Health Services 2010](#)
5. Hard copies of the Standards are currently being printed by DOHA and NSW Health will be distributing these to key NSW stakeholders and service providers prior to the end of 2010.
6. Further hard copies will be available from NSW Health or DOHA mailing houses.
7. The 2010 Standards will be incorporated into the relevant accreditation programs, and a national forum is being held in December to explore processes for this.
8. Guidelines to support implementation of the 2010 Standards have been developed and are also being printed. An update on their availability will be provided at a later stage.

For further information, contact:

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