

Position statement: Governance

This position statement identifies the governance foundations required for an effective mental health system.

Strong governance and oversight underpin efficient and effective systems. Good governance encompasses a variety of elements, including transparency, accountability, responsiveness and inclusivity. To ensure the optimal functioning of the mental health system, good governance must be strategically embedded across the system on all levels.

Key principles

1. Strong governance and oversight provide the essential precondition for an effective mental health and wellbeing system.
2. A whole-of-government approach is necessary for good governance of the mental health and wellbeing system, considering the complex relationships between mental health and other domains of wellbeing.
3. Good governance requires strong leadership that motivates, empowers and connects people, including by providing strategic guidance and support.
4. Lived experience leadership is vital to the mental health and wellbeing system to ensure that all parts of the system are informed by the insights and experiences of consumers and carers.
5. Legislative foundations based on respect for human rights are a fundamental underpinning of a system that is safe, effective and respectful of individual and communal autonomy, dignity and self-determination.
6. Transparency and accountability mechanisms are crucial in ensuring the provision of safe and high-quality services that enable and promote trusting relationships between consumers, carers and workers.
7. Sufficient and secure funding models are necessary to support sustainable service operation.
8. Ongoing research, data collection, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are essential to supporting the continuous improvement of the mental health system, and the services within it.