

Mental Health Intervention Team

May 2008



COMPLETION OF THE PILOT TRAINING COURSES

The final four pilot MHIT training courses have been completed and the program is now moving into the evaluation stage. This will involve the researchers following up trained MHIT officers and visiting them in their LAC.

The six courses were held on:-

25-28 February, 2008

7-10 April, 2008

5-8 May, 2008.

12-15 May, 2008.

26-29 May, 2008.

2-5 June, 2008.

A total of 113 officers have now been trained. All the trained officers can be identified by their MHIT badge worn above their name plates.

MHIT trained officers in addition to attending the four day training will also be required to submit a post course assessment and complete the online MOU training package when it is available in July. Ongoing

training and support is offered to all trained MHIT officers.

The future of MHIT training will depend on the outcome of the evaluation. It is hoped that training will roll out statewide to approx. 1500 frontline police.

The aims of the training are to:

- Reduce the risk of injury to police and mental health consumers when dealing with mental health related incidents;
- Improve awareness amongst front line police of the risks involved in the interaction between police and mental health consumers;
- Improve collaboration with other government and non- government agencies in the response to, and management of, mental health crisis incidents, and;
- Reduce the time taken by police in the handover of mental health consumers into the health care system.

UPCOMING MENTAL HEALTH EVENTS

Schizophrenia Awareness week.
18/5/08.

www.sfnsw.org.au

Drug Action Week.
22/6/08.

www.drugactionweek.org.au

Dementia Awareness Month.
15/9/08.

www.alzheimers.org.au

Mental Health Week
6/10/08.

www.mentalhealth.asn.au

World Mental Health Day
10/10/08.

www.mhco.org.au

MHIT Contact Details:

Mental Health Intervention Team.

Level 6,

Sydney Police Centre

151-241 Goulburn St,

Surry Hills NSW 2010

Ph: 9265-4509

Memorandum of Understanding online module.

In July the online module about the new (July 2007) Memorandum of Understanding will be available to all police officers to complete. This is worth one MCPE point. All MHIT trained officers will need to undertake this module in order to retain their MHIT qualification.

FUTURE MHIT ACTIVITIES

The Mental Health Intervention Team will continue to be available for support of the MHIT officers in the Local Area Commands.

There will be ongoing development days organised to target specific issues in the LACs. There will also be another pilot course run at the end of the year to capture those who have transferred into the area and wish to be trained.

A formal dinner will be held at the end of the year to recognise the efforts of the trained MHIT officers. Further details will be forwarded in the coming months.

Local Protocol Meetings

What are they?

Local Protocol Committees (LPCs) comprise of local representatives from Health (Mental Health, ED, hospital security and Drug and Alcohol), Police and Ambulance. Its role is to develop and implement local interagency operational protocols and agreements within the bounds of the statewide Memorandum of Understanding.

Why are LPCs important?

LPCs provide an appropriate forum to resolve interagency incidents and resolve local disputes. If an incident occurs which cannot be resolved by the staff involved it is important to fill out a dispute resolution form and provide it to your Mental Health Contact Officer to take to the next LPC. If the dispute cannot be resolved at the LPC level then they can be forwarded on to the Corporate Spokesperson, Supt Dave Donohue to take to the Interagency Departmental Committee (IDC)

Survey of MHCOs

All MHCOs will receive a questionnaire about their Local Protocol Committee. This is to get baseline data about the functionality of all LPCs across the state. The MHIT aims to ensure that all LPCs are running as effectively as possible by the end of the year.