



---

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### *NSW Police Mental Health Intervention Team*

#### **Background:**

On 27 February 2007 the Commissioner's Executive Team approved the formation of the Mental Health Intervention Team (MHIT). The concept resulted from an initiative by Assistant Commissioner Owens, Corporate Spokesperson for Mental health and will lead to the formation of a specialist unit dealing with policing and mental health for a two year pilot.

The purpose of the concept is to reduce the risk to Police and mental health consumers by minimizing police intervention in non-criminal incidents involving mental health consumers and therefore reduce the time police are taken away from core duties. The concept resulted from a study of international best practices and is drawn from the successful Crisis Intervention Team model in Memphis USA. The MHIT will collaborate with Health and other agencies to achieve its objectives modified from the CIT to meet the needs and operating environment of the NSW Police Force.

Throughout the two year pilot program of the MHIT, evaluations will be conducted to assess the benefits and ongoing applications to the NSW Police Force and NSW Health.

Forming part of the partnership will be a selected University provider which will independently review and evaluate the program.

#### **Establishment of Governance and Oversight Committees:**

Three committees will be formed to oversight and contribute to this project:

1. **Steering Committee:** Executive Level Committee established to oversight the corporate perspective and impact to the NSWPF. Members will be:
  - a. Corporate Spokesperson, Mental Health
  - b. Commander, Commissioners Inspectorate
  - c. Commander, Education Services.
  - d. Commander, Mental Health Intervention Team
2. **Consultant Committee:** Established to provide input from various stakeholders in the initiative and to seek ownership from other agencies in achieving its objectives.
  - a. Commander, Mental Health Intervention Team (NSWPF)
  - b. Senior Project Officer, Mental Health (NSWPF)

- c. Representative of NSW Health
  - d. Representative of University involved in Study evaluation – TBA
  - e. Site Representatives – MH Directors (3 trial site)
  - f. Consumer Groups Representative.
3. **Education and communications working group:** Established to advise on the creation and implementation of a MHIT training package and supporting change management plan.
- a. Commander, Mental Health Intervention Team
  - b. University representatives
  - c. NSW Police Academy (Dr Chris Devery)
  - d. Consumer Group

### **Outcomes/ boundaries**

The MHIT will be responsible for the following:-

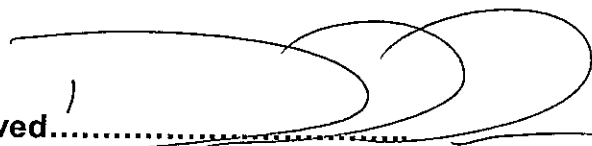
1. Development of a Mental Health Crisis Intervention Team training program for frontline police.
2. Implementation and coordination of the 3 LAC pilot programs.
3. Administer and oversee the formal evaluation and reporting process by the selected university provider.
4. Subject to the ongoing evaluation process consideration will be given to the development of a fully costed proposal, business case and implementation plan to support the state wide rollout of the program across all LACs.
5. Develop key partnerships with NSW Health, a selected University, government agencies and non-government agencies to achieve the MHIT objectives.
6. Review critical incidents involving mental health patients – reviewing systematic failure across agencies leading to the patients' involvement in these incidents.
7. Represent the NSW Police Force at key meetings involving both government and non-government organisations.
8. Champion the NSW Police Force direction of developing strategies to address waiting times at hospitals, remove police from inter-hospital transportation and drive changes in NSW Health to accommodate S24 presentations by Police in a timely manner.

### **Project Administration**

- The Governance Committee will meet monthly in the first 3 months then quarterly after that.
- The Consultant Committee will meet every two months.

- The Education and Communications Working Group will meet as required.
- Quarterly reports will be provided to the Assistant Commissioner, Corporate spokesperson on Mental Health and Assistant Commissioner, Commander, Commissioners Inspectorate.
- The duration of the pilot program is for 2 years.

Approved.....



Dave Owens

Assistant Commissioner

Corporate Spokesperson, Mental Health

9 October 2007