Save the date: **FRIDAY 22 JUNE 2018**

Chief Psychiatrist's Mental Health Quality and Safety Forum

Topic: Risk assessment and management in inpatient units

The current requirement that nurses complete a risk assessment of every inpatient several times each day is flawed from both conceptual and clinical perspectives. It is acknowledged that risk is ever-present on inpatient units and must be managed sensitively and carefully.

There is little evidence, however, that rating consumers' perceived risks of self-harm, violence, substance abuse and absconding on a shift-by-shift basis is either reliable or effective. Since efforts to model outcomes, based on numerous studies of actual risk, show that most suicides occur in apparent 'low risk' groups, frequent reassessments of risk serve little purpose and may induce a false sense of security.

The present focus on assessing and reassessing risk is thought to have evolved in Victoria in response to Coroners' criticisms of providers' failure to gauge risk accurately and prevent deaths.

Completing risk assessment scales is possibly of limited value in itself. It might be more helpful to focus instead on ways to work with inpatients to identify the issues that lead to risky behaviours and to mitigate these issues.

The Chief Psychiatrist and Chief Mental Health Nurse wish to promote discussion about alternative strategies to managing risk.

This forum will focus on:

- the efficacy of current risk assessment tools
- alternative approaches to identifying and managing risk within mental health inpatient services in Victoria and inter-state
- exploring options for a new Chief Psychiatrist's guideline on managing risk
- forming a working party of interested individuals to help develop the new guideline.

Keynote speaker – Matthew Large

Matthew Large is conjoint professor of psychiatry at the University of New South Wales and is the medical super-intendent of mental health at the Prince of Wales Hospitals in Sydney.

He is an internationally noted commentator on methods of risk assessment in psychiatry and the author of over 200 papers in peer reviewed journals.

Who should attend:

- Mental health service executives, operational managers, quality and safety managers, nurse unit managers, psychiatrists, allied health clinicians
- Health service executives, including corporate counsel
- Consumer and carer representatives and peer support workers.

When: Friday 22 June 2018, 9am to 1pm.
Where: TBC, Melbourne.
More information: Details about the program and registration will be distributed shortly. Please contact Randolfo Obregon on 9096 5631 or randolfo.obregon@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Hosted by Victoria's Chief Psychiatrist

VICTORIA State Government