



Chief Psychiatrist's Standard for the Authorisation of Hospitals under the *Mental Health Act 2014*

Frequently Asked Questions – Health Service Provider Capital Infrastructure Projects Underway

What are the key changes for HSPs?

- Model of Care is now central and underpins planning, design, build and service delivery
- Reduced reliance on prescribed policies, with greater focus on systems, governance and workforce capability
- Stronger requirements for safety and quality, including:
 - patient and support person rights
 - risk management and procedural safety
 - emergency response
 - continuous improvement and facility maintenance

What does this mean in practice for our project?

- Develop the Model of Care early, prior to design commencement (recognising it remains a live document)
- Undertake genuine consultation to inform the Model of Care, including lived experience, clinicians, frontline staff and diverse communities
- Submit the Model of Care, Business Case and design at key checkpoints to CP/DCP, and update as changes occur
- Incorporate operational planning into funding and design, including workforce (e.g. peer workers, cultural roles), capability and maintenance
- Ensure clinical and operational staff inform design through the Functional Brief and all design stages



What has changed in the authorisation process?

- A defined authorisation pathway with checkpoints across project stages
- Reduced requirement for extensive documentation
- Greater focus on how services operate in practice
- Introduction of the Authorisation Master Checklist

What are our core responsibilities in the authorisation process?

- Ensure alignment with the Standard across the project (clinical, operational and design influences)
- Engage with OCP throughout the project lifecycle, including checkpoints, advice and site visits
- Coordinate OCP engagement and site visits, including pre-visit briefings (progress, risks and issues)
- Track compliance using the Authorisation Master Checklist
- Keep OCP informed of key updates and risks that may impact authorisation (e.g. changes to scope, design, Model of Care or funding outcomes)
- Coordinate the final authorisation submission and site visit

Do we still need to submit policies and extensive documentation/evidence in our final application?

- No – the new Standard reduces reliance on document-heavy submissions
- Services use:
 - the Authorisation Master Checklist
 - specified documents outlined in the Advisory (e.g. floor plans)
 - targeted supporting information, requested only where required



Who is our main contact at OCP and how do we engage?

- A dedicated OCP Authorisation Team is available
- Contact: authorisations@ocp.wa.gov.au

Engagement expectations:

- Early and ongoing engagement is strongly encouraged
- OCP can:
 - attend user groups and workshops
 - provide advice and clarification
- Formal advice or decisions must be requested in writing

Which Standard will our project be assessed against?

- Determined case-by-case, based on:
 - project stage
 - funding status
 - timeframes
 - feasibility
- The Office of the Chief Psychiatrist has contacted services that fall within the scope of the previous Standard.
- If unsure:
 - Refer to Schedule One (transitional provisions) within the Standard
 - Contact the OCP Authorisation Team
- If assessed under the previous Standard (2019):
 - Treated as a legacy service after authorisation
 - Must complete a gap analysis within 6 months
- Align with the new Standard wherever possible.



What do we do next?

- Review the new Standard, Advisory and Authorisation Master Checklist to understand requirements and assess current alignment for your service or project.
- Engage with the OCP (if you haven't already) to confirm which version of the Standard applies, noting that the Authorisation Team will also be proactively contacting services as part of the transition.
- Share the Standard, Advisory and Master Checklist with relevant stakeholders (e.g. project teams, designers, clinicians) to support alignment across planning, design and delivery.
- Review the Advisory to identify your stage in the authorisation pathway and incorporate required OCP engagement and checkpoints into future planning.