



Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance
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6 DEC 2023

Dr Maria Boulton and Dr Brett Dale
Australian Medical Association Queensland
88 L'Estrange Terrace
KELVIN GROVE QLD 4059

Email: amaq@amaq.com.au

Dear Dr Boulton and Dr Dale

Maria & Brett

Thank you for your letter dated 2 August 2023, in relation to Hospital and Health Service meetings to discuss implementation of wellbeing measures under the *Health and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023* (the Act). I also acknowledge this correspondence was sent to Mr Michael Walsh, Acting Director-General, Queensland Health.

It was good to meet with you both at our recent meetings on 6 September and 16 October 2023, to discuss this and other matters.

As discussed, medical officer wellbeing is a high priority for Queensland Health, and the importance of fostering a good culture and developing a workforce that feels valued and empowered is recognised. A range of initiatives are currently underway to ensure that the medical workforce is provided with appropriate support and conditions.

The Medical Wellbeing Reference Group, chaired by the Chief Medical Officer, has recently been refreshed, with representation sought from junior and senior clinicians across different Hospital and Health Services, Doctors Health Fund, the Australian Medical Association Queensland Committee of Doctors in Training, medical schools and the First Nations Clinical Network. Collaboration with a diverse group of clinicians at different stages of their career journey and from different parts of the state will offer a great opportunity for connection and shared learning. The Medical Wellbeing Reference Group held a strategy day in October 2023 to formalise its key priorities and develop a targeted workplan for implementation across the system.

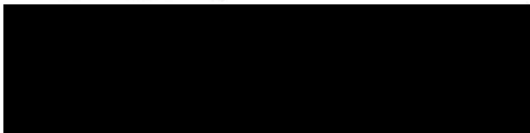
In relation to staff wellbeing in the context of raising patient safety issues as mentioned in your letter, I can advise that the Patient Safety and Quality team within Clinical Excellence Queensland is leading work on the development of the Patient Safety Net. The Patient Safety Net will provide a safe and formal pathway to raise patient safety matters and ensure staff psychological safety and wellbeing through Patient Safety Stewards to ensure any impacts to staff wellbeing may be addressed in parallel with the patient safety issue.

The updated *Queensland Health Workforce Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework 2023* (the Framework) will also support delivery of health, safety and wellbeing measures for staff in accordance with legislative obligations, including the Act. The Framework emphasises system-level responses and cultural change for mentally healthy workplaces, whilst also strengthening individual mental health and wellbeing supports.

In relation to the possibility of a statewide rollout of Medtasker, I can advise that eHealth Queensland will engage with key stakeholders to determine if a statewide rollout of a clinical task management solution is feasible. There are proposed and current implementations of Medtasker across Queensland Health including Metro South, Gold Coast and Darling Downs Hospital and Health Services. Additionally, other clinical task management solutions are also in use across Queensland Health, including Medical Review Task Management Workflow solution within the Integrated Electronic Medical Record.

Thank you again for writing, and meeting with me to discuss these important issues. Should you require any further information in relation to this matter, I have arranged for Associate Professor Catherine McDougall, Chief Medical Officer, Clinical Excellence Queensland, on telephone [REDACTED], to be available to assist you.

Yours sincerely

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Shannon Fentiman MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services
Minister for Women
Member for Waterford