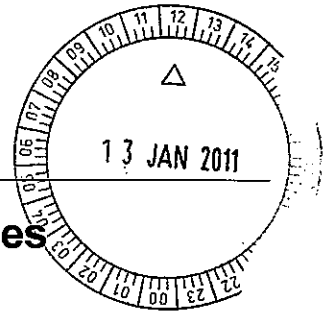


PUBLIC



Minister for Mental Health; Disability Services

Our Ref: 43-00059

Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environmental and Public Affairs
Parliament House
Harvest Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr Ellis

Thank you for your letter of 29 November 2010 addressed to the former Minister for Mental Health regarding 'Petition No 98 – Establishment of a Mental Impairment Intervention Program'.

The Mental Health Commission (MHC) has recently obtained feedback on the *WA Mental Health Towards 2020 Consultation Paper*, which will further inform the development of the final policy and strategic directions document. This document will outline the State Government's strategic vision and policy for mental health and provide a blueprint for mental health priorities and reform in Western Australia over the next decade.

The need for a dedicated court intervention program for people experiencing mental health problems was identified during these consultations. The MHC has agreed to work with the Department of the Attorney General to explore this matter fully and determine possible options for establishing a court intervention program for mentally impaired offenders.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen Morton".

HON HELEN MORTON MLC
MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH; DISABILITY SERVICES

06 JAN 2010