

# MHLEPQ welcomes the new Minister for Mental Health

The Mental Health Lived Experience Peak Queensland (MHLEPQ) welcomes the establishment of a standalone Queensland Mental Health Portfolio, to be led by Ms Shannon Fentiman as *Minister of Mental Health*.

The MHLEPQ is the collective voice of Queenslanders with lived experience of mental illness or suicidality. Jorgen Gullestrup, MHLEPQ CEO said:

“Our role is to give honest and fearless advice to government and departments from a lived experience perspective, and there is a lot of work to be done.

“Queensland has made some big steps forward in the mental health sector over the last decade, but events such as the recent [cancellation of inspections of the United Nations \(UN\) Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture](#) shows how much further we need to go.” Mr Gullestrup said.

“The excessive use of coercive and restrictive practices within mental health settings is very concerning.”

“Our current system detains mental health consumers in inpatient settings under the “Locked Wards” directive, which requires Queensland mental health wards to be locked – regardless of the needs and diagnosis of individual mental health clients,” he said.

The MHLEPQ is currently completing a Position Statement on the use of coercive and restrictive practices in the Queensland health system that is due to be released before the end of June 2023.

“The Position Statement will offer an opportunity to learn from the lived experience of Queenslanders, challenging us to do something differently, said Mr Gullestrup.

Queenslanders want a mental health system that is [holistic and integrated, sees people as more than their diagnosis, and puts them at the centre of their full social and cultural context.](#)

“Having a specific Mental Health Portfolio highlights the complexity of mental health and speaks to the need for sector reform. The MHLEPQ commends the Palaszczuk Government for the establishment of the new portfolio.”

“We look forward to working with the Minister for Mental Health towards positive change, led by Lived Experience,” he said.

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Visit the MHLEPQ website for more information:  
[www.mhlepeq.org.au](http://www.mhlepeq.org.au)

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Jorgen Gullestrup, MHLEPQ, CEO  
email: [ceo@mhlepeq.org.au](mailto:ceo@mhlepeq.org.au)  
phone: 0417 7127 58