

## Use of terms

A range of terms are used in this Practice Guide in addition to those that are defined by the Act. The meanings of frequently used terms are explained below.

### **Consumer and Patient**

Common terms used to refer to people accessing mental health services include 'consumer' 'client', 'service user' and 'patient'. The terms 'consumer' and 'patient' have been selected for use throughout this guide because of their respective uses in the Act. The term 'consumer' consistent with the Act will be used here to refer to a person who is or was seeking or receiving mental health assessment, treatment or care from a mental health service provider. Similarly, the term 'patient' will refer to a person who is subject to a compulsory order under the *Mental Health Act 2014*.

### **Carer and Family**

The term carer has a particular meaning within the *Mental Health Act 2014* (and the *Carer Recognition Act 2012*) and will be used in this document to mean a person, including a person under the age of 18 years, who provides care to another person with whom he or she is in a care relationship. As such, a carer may be a blood relative, another family member, a domestic partner, a colleague or friend, a member of a particular community or kinship group, or a child or young person of the consumer.

The term family will be used to describe a consumers' family of origin or procreation. Family members may or may not be in a specific caring role but nonetheless may be affected by their relative's mental illness. Consistent with the Act, this includes dependent children of parents experiencing mental illness.

### **Clinician**

Clinician will be the generic term used in this document to describe the authorised psychiatrist, other medical practitioners and mental health practitioners.

### **Practitioner**

Consistent with its use in the Act, the term 'practitioner' or 'mental health practitioner' will be used in the document to refer to a person employed by a designated mental health service and who is a registered nurse, psychologist, occupational therapist or social worker. The term practitioner does not include the authorised psychiatrist whose role is defined separately within the Act. The term 'MHCCS practitioner' will be used to describe a person employed by a publicly funded mental health community support service.

### **Significant People**

This term will be used to describe significant relationships within a person's life including 'family', 'carer', 'friend' and 'support person'. For instances where any one or combination of these people may be intended 'significant people' will be used, however there will be times when the more specific term 'carer' is required.

## Abbreviations and acronyms

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| AO      | Assessment Order  |
| AS      | Refers specifically to the Advanced Statements as defined under the Act |
| ATSI    | Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander                                |
| CALD    | Culturally and Linguistically Diverse                                   |
| COPMI   | Children of Parents with a Mental Illness                               |
| CTO     | Community Treatment Order   |
| CTTO    | Community Temporary Treatment Order                                     |
| DHS     | Department of Human Services  |
| ECT     | Electroconvulsive Therapy   |
| FaPMI   | Families where a Parent has a Mental Illness                            |
| ITO     | Inpatient Treatment Order   |
| ITTO    | Inpatient Temporary Treatment Order                                     |
| MHCSS   | Mental Health Community Support Service                                 |
| NP      | Refers specifically to the Nominated Person as defined under the Act    |
| The Act | <i>The Mental Health Act 2014</i>                                       |
| TO      | Treatment Order   |
| TTO     | Temporary Treatment Order   |