

November 2015

## ED-LINQ RENEWAL PROJECT

### Purpose

This paper provides an overview of the Ed-LinQ Renewal project, which has been funded by the Queensland Mental Health Commission (QMHC) to work with all health, education and community stakeholders to review the scope and operational model of the Queensland Ed-LinQ Initiative.

### The Queensland Ed-LinQ initiative

The Ed-LinQ initiative (Ed-LinQ) was established under the *Queensland Plan for Mental Health 2007-2017* to improve linkages and service integration between the education, primary care and mental health sectors for earlier detection and treatment of mental illness affecting school-aged children and young people.

Within Hospital and Health Services (HHSs), Ed-LinQ Coordinators work across the mental health, education, primary care and community sectors by:

- facilitating a strategic approach for collaboration and integration between the sectors; and
- enabling improved access to mental health consultation, assessment, information and training opportunities.

A 2014 independent evaluation of Ed-LinQ funded by the QMHC reported many positive and highly-valued aspects of the initiative, with benefits identified for schools, health and mental health services and school-health partnerships.

An evaluation of two-day workshops delivered to cross-sectoral stakeholders across HHSs on the topics of childhood anxiety and adolescent non-suicidal self-injury in 2013-14 also yielded positive feedback amongst participants.

The reports arising from these reviews are available from the QMHC website:

[www.qmhc.qld.gov.au/work/research/edlinq/](http://www.qmhc.qld.gov.au/work/research/edlinq/)



### Why the Need for Renewal?

The evaluation report identified that the positive impact attributable to Ed-LinQ is not evident to the same extent in all HHSs with an Ed-LinQ program. Reviews of the overall initiative and workforce development program noted specific factors at the program, policy, governance and workforce levels inhibiting the impact of Ed-LinQ that require action. In addition, the Framework for action underpinning Ed-LinQ was established nearly a decade ago, and so is due for a review to consider and integrate contemporary themes and resources. The Ed-LinQ resource allocation has furthermore not been enhanced since initial establishment, and is not necessarily sufficient to meet current demands. Five HHSs are not funded for an Ed-LinQ Coordinator, and the state coordinator position was abolished in 2012.

### How Will the Project Work?

The QMHC has funded the Child and Youth Mental Health Service (CYMHS), Children's Health Queensland (CHQ) HHS to undertake the project from October 2015 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016. CHQ is the only HHS in Queensland focussing exclusively on the needs of 0-18 year olds, and with a statewide scope.

In consultation with key stakeholders from the health, education and primary care sectors, CHQ CYMHS will develop a consistent model for school and health collaboration in the early detection and intervention for mental health issues affecting children and young people. CHQ CYMHS will generate a project plan to guide the model development detailing the consultation process, including strategic direction from a reference group comprised of statewide health and education stakeholders.

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### Further Information

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