

Terms of Reference – Director of Mental Health Inspection of Waikato Mental Health Services
Purpose

The purpose of this review is for the Director of Mental Health to inspect the service so he can examine how the services are functioning. This will enable him to determine whether there are any systemic issues, and if there are none, to assure the public on how the services are being run.

Background Waikato DHB Mental Health Services have had number of incidents raised in the media over the past 6 months. The final issue was the charging of an overseas doctor, who was believed to not have the qualifications he claimed, with fraud on 25 July 2015. There has been intense media and other public comment around the various incidents and the services offered by the Waikato DHB Mental Health Services.

This has given rise to a perception and concern in some about the quality and functioning of these services. As a result the Director of Mental Health has decided to use his statutory powers under s99 of the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992 to inspect the Waikato DHB Mental Health Services so he can examine how the services are functioning.

This will enable him to determine whether there are any systemic issues and if there are none to assure the public on how the services are being run.

Review process The Director will be taking a small team with him to ensure there is a comprehensive look at not just the operational and clinical governance and functioning of the service but also how that operational and clinical governance is overseen by the wider DHB processes. While any individual incidents are important they are not the subject of this inspection as there are separate processes (criminal, quality and statutory) to look at those incidents. There will be careful analysis of the DHB recruitment, credentialing and supervision of new staff and in particular overseas trained staff, with particular reference to the recent allegations leading to an overseas doctor being charged with fraud.

John Crawshaw Director of Mental Health 30 July 2015"