1. The Queensland Mental Health Commission Bill 2012 (Bill) establishes the first ever Queensland Mental Health Commission (QMHC) to:
	1. drive ongoing systemic reform towards a more integrated, evidence-based, recovery-oriented mental health and alcohol and other drugs system in Queensland;
	2. lead coordinated action by government, non-government and private sector agencies which deliver services to people with mental health or alcohol and other drugs issues;
	3. drive best practice in the provision of services, including by supporting research, innovation and evidence-based practice; and
	4. promote the mental health and wellbeing of Queenslanders, including by supporting prevention and early intervention initiatives and improving community awareness of mental health and alcohol and other drugs issues.
2. The Bill provides the QMHC with a range of functions to enable it to provide this whole-of-government and whole-of-system leadership and to enhance the wellbeing of the Queensland community. These functions include preparing a whole-of-government plan for improving mental health and minimising harm from alcohol and other drug use in consultation with consumers, carers, families, service providers and other interested stakeholders.
3. Public sector and publicly-funded agencies providing mental health, alcohol and other drug and other human services to vulnerable groups will be required to have regard to the principles of the legislation and to work cooperatively with the QMHC in exercising their functions.
4. The QMHC will be required to engage and consult with consumers, carers, families, service providers and the whole community, and to take into account the views and needs of vulnerable groups such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and regional and remote communities.
5. The Bill provides for the establishment of a Mental Health and Drugs Advisory Council to advise the QMHC on any issues within the QMHC’s functions. The Advisory Council will be one of the primary means through which the sector can contribute to shaping the strategic reform priorities and activities of the QMHC. Members will be selected for their capacity to understand and represent the mental health and alcohol and other drugs issues affecting the diverse Queensland community.
6. The QMHC will be headed by a statutory Commissioner, accountable to the Minister for Health. Recruitment of an inaugural Commissioner will begin immediately to ensure the QMHC can be led from its commencement by a person with the drive and gravitas needed to build robust partnerships and realise its ambitious reform goals.
7. Cabinet approved introduction into Parliament of the Queensland Mental Health Commission Bill 2012 and the accompanying Explanatory Notes.
8. *Attachments*
* [Queensland Mental Health Commission Bill 2012](Attachments/Bill.pdf).
* [Explanatory Notes for the Queensland Mental Health Commission Bill 2012](Attachments/Explan%20Notes.pdf).