

# Mental Health Coercive Practices to Fall

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In its [response to the Mental Health Inquiry](#) the NSW Government has decided to redraft the [Chief Psychiatrist's Communiqué 2014](#) which misguides clinicians in the increasing use of forced medication" (r 35, p 29). That new guide must comply with the law supporting the human rights of people with psychosocial challenges.

The government also supported in principle a review of the powers under the *Mental Health Act 2007* for treatment orders and least restrictive practices, following shocking evidence of abuses. We welcome its concession that 'NSW Health will consider inclusion of guidance to address some of the issues raised around the appropriate use of CTOs' (r 36, p 29).

Fairer hearings before the Tribunal with access to the evidence and legal support for the vulnerable people before it, were also adopted by the Government. It will now offer 'guidance around the availability of legal assistance' (r 35, p 28) and digitise its records to enable analysis (r37, p29). These follow the changes in [Victoria after its Royal Commission](#).

The government's commitment to include peer mentors in the broader mental health workforce (r 18, p 19) and in emergency departments (r 23, p 22) brings lived experience into the front line of support and policy.

Health led crisis intervention rather than continuing the police killings of distraught people was accepted as necessary (r 33 and 34, p 27). However, using resources on 'mental health training provided to operational police' (r 30, p 26) rather than the adoption of the CAHOOTS model of community intervention was disappointing.