

Queensland Ambulance Service | Queensland Department of Health (2021)

Facilitation of tri-agency mental health co-responder forum

Development of a logic model, for Queensland Health (MHAOD) and Queensland Ambulance Service, to support the rigorous ongoing evaluation of these MHCore programs and facilitate collaboration and effective coordination between the participating Queensland Government agencies.

Desired outcome was to agree upon end goal or long-term outcome (like a mission statement for the co-responder units) and collaborate to build a ‘stacked’ logic model that can be used as the basis to assess the contribution of Qld Health (mental health), and QPS (police), and QAS (paramedic).

Qld Ambulance Service (QAS), Qld Police Service (QPS) and Qld Health operate mental health co-responder units in which a mental health clinician (Qld Health) and paramedic (QAS) or police officer (QPS) attend mental health related calls for service in the community.

QAS and QPS have a number of these units in operation in specific areas of the state, and further units are being currently rolled out. Qld Health (MHAOD) commissioned QAS in partnership with the Tri-Agency Co-Responder Evaluation Sub-committee to lead a joint evaluation of the various models in operation.

The evaluation sub-committee felt that separate logic models were necessary for each Mental Health Co-responder (MHCore) model because of the history of their development and their funding source.

The QPS MHCore models were adopted and adapted to work with the available resourcing and continue to operate successfully on in-kind support from the local district and HHS.

They emerged from an initial 6-month trial in Cairns in 2011 which was based on the Memphis Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program in the USA. Since then, they have been implemented in other QPS districts;

- 2015 (Moreton)
- 2017 (Ipswich & Sunshine Coast)
- 2018 (Gold Coast)
- 2019 (South Brisbane, Logan & Townsville)
- 2020 (Darling Downs delayed because of onset of COVID).

There wasn’t, and still isn’t any QPS governance frameworks or strategic planning guiding implementation of these MHCore models.

