



Information Sheet

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

The Tribunal has made some videos that explain what happens before, during and after a hearing. You can find them on the Tribunal's website at www.mhrt.qld.gov.au or by scanning the QR Code.



What is the Tribunal and what do they do?

The Tribunal's main job is to hold a hearing to review your Treatment Authority (TA), Forensic Order (FO) or Treatment Support Order (TSO) and decide if it should continue or not. The Tribunal also hear applications for Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT). It is independent and not part of your treating team. At the hearing, there will be between two and four Tribunal members. Members may be lawyers, doctors or a community member who has experience and knowledge in mental health

How will I know when my Tribunal hearing is?

The Tribunal will mail you a written notice in the post telling you when and where your hearing will be. Hearings are generally at your local hospital or mental health service. Your hearing may be held in person, via the telephone or via videoconference facilities.

Will I get an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander member at my Tribunal hearing?

Where possible, an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander member will be part of the Tribunal. Contact the Tribunal if you would like to make this request.

Do I need to go to a Tribunal hearing?

The Tribunal would like you to be at the hearing so the members can hear from you. If you do not want to attend your hearing in person, you can ask to join by telephone. You can also tell the Tribunal what you think by sending them an email or a letter before the hearing. If you or someone on your behalf tell the Tribunal that an interpreter is needed before the hearing, the Tribunal will make arrangements at no cost to you.

Can I have support at my hearing?

Yes, you can be supported at your Tribunal hearing. You may have a friend, family member or support person go to the hearing with you. With the Tribunal's permission, you can have more than one person. If you would like, your nominated support person, a lawyer or another person may also represent you and speak to the Tribunal on your behalf. If required, the Tribunal will appoint a lawyer for you at no cost. If a lawyer is appointed for you, the lawyer will contact you directly.

What happens before the hearing?

The Tribunal's notice will include a 'self-report' form. You may wish to complete this form prior to the hearing to help you express your views. You may also wish to have a yarn with your nominated support person or other people in your support network about attending the hearing with you. You can organise a lawyer, although you do not have to.

At least 7 days before the hearing, your treating team will also give you a copy of a clinical report which will be discussed at the hearing. You should take the time to read this report, and if you have any questions about the report, you can have a yarn to your treating team (eg your case manager or doctor).

What happens at a hearing?

The Tribunal may ask you questions. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions and give your opinion. A member/s of your treating team will also attend the hearing and they will be asked to give their opinion about your illness and your progress/recovery.

What decisions can the Tribunal make?

After reading the clinical report and hearing all the information from you and your treating team, the Tribunal will make a decision whether to confirm (continue) or revoke (stop) your TA, FO or TSO. The Tribunal may also make a decision about whether your TA, FO, and TSO is inpatient (meaning you live at the hospital) or community (meaning you receive treatment while living at home), whether you should have limited community treatment (leave from the hospital) or any other orders the Tribunal considers appropriate.

For ECT applications, after reviewing the application and listening to the information at the hearing, the Tribunal will make a decision whether to approve the doctor treating you with ECT. For further information about ECT have a look at the Tribunal's website.

After the hearing

In most cases, the Tribunal will tell you what their decision is at the hearing. You will also receive a written notice telling you the Tribunal's decision in the mail.

If you would like to know the reasons for the Tribunal's decision, you can request a statement of reasons. Details of how to request reasons are on the back of the notice of decision or you can contact the Tribunal for further information. You may also wish to appeal the Tribunal's decision to the Mental Health Court. Further information regarding appeals can be obtained by contacting the Court Registry (details below).

Where can I get more information?

If you would like further information about your medication and treatment, you should have a yarn with your treating team. If you need further information about your hearing, you can talk to your health worker or your doctor or contact the Independent Patient Rights Advisor (IPRA) at your mental health service. You can find contact details for your local IPRA by searching "IPRA contacts Queensland" in Google or phoning 1300 MH CALL (1300 65 2255)

To contact the **Tribunal**: Ph.: 07 3338 8300 or Freecall: 1800 006 478 (1800 00 MHRT)
Web: www.mhrt.qld.gov.au Email: enquiry@mhrt.qld.gov.au.

Further information regarding **your rights** as a patient can be found at <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/clinical-staff/mental-health/act/topics/patient-rights> or by searching "patient rights and support mental health Queensland" in Google.

If you would like further information about **appeals**, the Mental Health Court Registry can be contacted on telephone 07 3082 0554, email RegistrarMHC@health.qld.gov.au or at <http://www.courts.qld.gov.au/courts/mental-health-court>