

TRANSCRIPT FOR MHRT VIDEO 1

BEFORE THE HEARING

The Mental Health Review Tribunal, or the MHRT for short, makes decisions about whether a person should have involuntary treatment and/or care in Queensland.

The MHRT hold regular hearings to decide if your involuntary authority or order should continue, whether you should stay in hospital or the community, and whether there should be any conditions on what you can and can't do.

The MHRT has a very specific role and cannot make decisions about:

- who your doctor is,
- who is involved in your treatment,
- the type of treatment you receive, and
- what medication you take, or how much of it

Before your hearing, the MHRT will send you a notice saying when and where the hearing will take place.

This video explains how you might prepare for your hearing.

Number 1: Read the clinical report

Your doctor will prepare a clinical report for your hearing. This is an important document that will be spoken about a lot. You will get a copy of this report from your treating team. If you disagree with something, make a note of it, and speak to your treating team, or let the MHRT know at the hearing.

Number 2: Have your say

To have your say, you can go to the hearing in person, by videoconference, or on the phone, make your own notes, or complete a self-report.

The 'self-report' is a form that you will get with your hearing notice. You do not have to attend your hearing, but the MHRT would still like to hear from you.

Think about what you'd like the Tribunal to know, for example: how your recovery is going, how you keep well, medications you take and if they're helping, supports you have in place, your strengths, and your goals and plans for the future.

If you decide not to go, you can still share your views by giving the MHRT your notes or self-report before the hearing.

Number 3: Decide whether you want to go to the hearing

You can bring someone with you to the hearing for support, like a friend or family member, who can help you remember what you want to say or recap what happened at the hearing.

Number 4: Decide whether you want representation

You can also have someone, either a lawyer or another person, represent you at the hearing. They must share your views, wishes and preferences to the MHRT and/or act in your best interests. If you do have representation, let your treating team and the MHRT know.

Number 5: MHRT appointed lawyer

The MHRT is required to provide a lawyer for free, for: Minors, ECT applications and for forensic orders, where the attorney general will be represented.

If one is appointed, the lawyer will contact you directly in the days leading up to your hearing.

Number 6: Nominated Support Persons

You can choose a nominated support person, or NSP for short, to receive notices about your MHRT hearing. To do this, you need to complete a form, which you can get from your treating team, Independent Patient's Rights Advisor, or IPRA, or online by searching 'nominated support person Queensland'.

For further information, visit www.mhrt.qld.gov.au or call 1800 006 478.