

TRANSCRIPT FOR MHRT VIDEO 2

DURING THE HEARING

A hearing at the Mental Health Review Tribunal can be stressful and you may not know what will happen next. This video will step through what you can expect.

The MHRT will mail you notice of the hearing, including when and where it will take place.

This will usually be at your local hospital or community mental health service and can take place in-person, by videoconference, or over the phone.

On the day of the hearing, you should arrive a little earlier than the start time on your notice so that you have time to find, or be shown to, the hearing room.

Don't forget to bring any information with you, such as your self-report. You might also like to bring a notebook and pen.

Who will be there?

There are a number of people who will be at your hearing. If you have brought someone from your support network with you to the hearing, they will be able to help you during the hearing if you need it.

Usually, there will be three MHRT members – a legal member, a medical member, and a community member. They will make the decision about your order or authority.

One or more members of your treating team will also be there to speak about your illness, progress, and recovery.

If arranged prior to the hearing, you may also be represented by a nominated support person, a lawyer or another person. They will share your views and wishes, as far as possible, with the MHRT members.

If you are on a forensic order, someone acting for the Attorney-General may also be at your hearing to speak in the community's interest. If this is the case, the MHRT may also get you a lawyer.

Sometimes, there may also be other people at your hearing such as an interpreter, a cultural support person, and/or a support worker.

What happens in the hearing?

An MHRT hearing is not the same as a court hearing. Your hearing is less formal and is a discussion to make a decision about your order or authority.

An MHRT member will lead the hearing and make sure that everyone, including you, has a chance to speak.

The hearing will cover similar topics to what is in the clinical report, and the members will ask everyone questions to gather the information they need to make their decision.

If you disagree with what is said during the hearing, make a note of it. When it is your turn to speak, you can share your thoughts and self-report with the MHRT. The MHRT members will also ask how you feel about your treatment, progress, and recovery.

Making the decision A hearing generally takes between 30 and 60 minutes but may take longer depending on the issues to be decided.

The MHRT members will ask everyone to leave the room, or place everyone on hold, while they discuss what their decision will be.

When the members have finished talking, everyone will be asked to come back into the room.

Generally, you will be told the decision then, but sometimes, the members need more time, and you may be told the decision at a later date.

In the following days, you will get a hard copy of the decision in the mail. The next video - "After the Hearing" - covers what might happen next.

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