

Ministry for Health

Office of the Commissioner for Mental Health Care and Older Persons

Structure, Functions and Responsibilities

The Office of the Commissioner is responsible for the promotion of rights of persons with mental disorders and older persons. The main objectives of the Office of the Commissioner are as follows:

Mental Health

- to promote the rights of persons with mental disorders
- to review any policies and make recommendations to any competent authority to safeguard or enhance the rights of such persons
- to monitor the progress of persons with mental disorders who are held in a licensed mental facility to ensure that the provisions of the Mental Health Act are being upheld
- to review all patient incident reports and death records received from licensed mental health facilities
- to investigate complaints concerning breach of patients' rights or any aspect of care and treatment provided by a licensed facility or a healthcare professional and take action as appropriate
- to conduct regular inspections of all licensed facilities to ascertain that the rights of patients are being upheld
- to report to the appropriate competent authority any healthcare professional for breach of human rights or for contravening any provision of the Mental Health Act, without prejudice to any action that may take as deemed appropriate.

Older Persons

- to promote awareness of matters relating to the interests of older persons and of the need to safeguard those interests
 - to keep under regular review the adequacy and effectiveness of services provided for older persons by relevant authorities
 - to promote the provision of opportunities for and the elimination of discrimination against older persons
 - to encourage best practice in the treatment of older persons
 - to promote positive attitudes towards older persons and encourage participation by older persons in public life
 - to ensure that older persons are made aware of the functions of the Commissioner and how they may communicate with the Commissioner
 - to undertake, commission or provide financial or other assistance for research or educational activities concerning the interests of older persons or the exercise of the Commissioner's functions
 - to issue guidance on best practice in relation to any matter concerning the interests of older persons, after consultation with such bodies or persons as the Commissioner thinks appropriate;
 - to compile information concerning the interests of older persons

- to publish any matter concerning the interests of older persons, including the outcome of any research or activities; the outcome of any investigations conducted; and any advice provided by the Commissioner
- to make representations or recommendations to anybody or person about any matter concerning the interests of older persons.

General Description of the Categories of Documents Held

The Office of the Commissioner for Mental Health and Older Persons holds documents pertaining to the following categories:-

- Printed international documents related to mental health and older persons
- Annual Report 2011 (final version still to be published)
- Working policy documents relating to the functions of the Office of the Commissioner
- Working documents relating to implementation of various initiatives
- Government Gazette and copies of Legislations
- Internal draft working policy documents concerning gender equality and gender mainstreaming

Contact details

The Office of the Commissioner for Mental Health and Older Persons is housed at St Luke's Square, G'Mangia. The Freedom of Information Officer and the Alternate Freedom of Information Officer for the Office of the Commissioner for Mental Health and Older Persons may be contacted on 25924304 or by email on foi.cmh@gov.mt