



**Mental Health
Commission**



Our ref: MHC25/119863
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Ms Alison Cameron
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Ombudsman Western Australia
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Dear Ms Cameron

INVITATION TO PROVIDE WRITTEN SUBMISSION ON THE PROTECTED ENTERTAINMENT PRECINCTS SCHEME

Thank you for your letter of 20 October 2025, inviting the Mental Health Commission (Commission) to provide feedback about the operation of the Protected Entertainment Precincts Scheme (PEP Scheme).

The Commission is a Western Australian Government agency that facilitates the delivery of mental health, alcohol and other drugs services and programs, while leading the transformation required across the system to better meet the needs of the community into the future.

The Commission has contacted several funded service providers that operate or provide services to people within the PEP Scheme areas. At the time of writing, noting the timeframe of 21 November 2025 to make a submission, the Commission is yet to receive any feedback. Should feedback subsequently be received, it will be forwarded to you.

The PEP Scheme operates in some locations commonly frequented by people experiencing disadvantage – groups that can be harder to reach (not always engaged with services), whose voices can be difficult to capture, particularly in a timely manner. I acknowledge the review process considering a range of engagement options in consideration of whether any group in the community has been particularly affected by the PEP Scheme.

Noting verbal advice provided by your office that submissions from peak bodies and service providers are welcome, the Commission has also informed the Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (WANADA) of the review. WANADA is the peak body for alcohol and other drug education, prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and support sector in Western Australia and has a strong membership base of community-based organisations.

It also warrants noting that PEPs are one part of a much broader comprehensive approach to effectively prevent and reduce harm from alcohol. Population based and targeted prevention which includes a range of measures that in combination, seek to increase protective factors at both the individual and community level are integral to long term positive outcomes. Examples include initiatives such as: public education, school drug education, community development, policy and legislation, harm reduction, treatment and support.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important point of inquiry regarding the PEP Scheme.

Yours sincerely



Maureen Lewis
COMMISSIONER

18 November 2025