

FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND OLDER PERSONS

- To promote and protect the rights and interests of older persons and persons with mental disorders and their carers
- To influence legislation and policies for the safeguarding of these rights and interests
- To receive complaints and queries and take the necessary actions
- To investigate alleged breach of rights and interests
- To develop and foster partnerships with all relevant stakeholders including policy makers, public and private entities, patient representative groups and related non-governmental organizations
- To increase the awareness and knowledge of the general public about mental health, persons with mental health disorders, ageing and older persons

This Office may be contacted by patients, carers, professionals and general public

- For information, advice and guidance on issues related to rights and interests of

OLDER PERSONS

PERSONS WITH MENTAL DISORDERS

- To make complaints and queries regarding care, treatment and incidents on Mental Health issues. The Office can investigate complaints and carry out investigations as outlined by Mental Health Act 2012 (Cap 525 of the Laws of Malta)

This Office also serves as an advisory and reference point for

- Non-Governmental Organisations
- Policy Makers

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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND OLDER PERSONS

MISSION

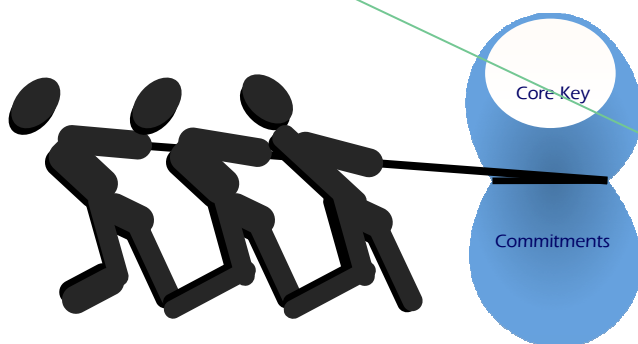
To promote and protect the rights and interests of older persons and persons with mental disorders and their carers, such that they can benefit from a better quality of life through the maximisation of their potential

VISION

The vision of the Office of the Commissioner for Mental Health and Older Persons is an all inclusive society, wherein older persons and persons with a mental disorder are fully empowered to maximize their health. This will enhance their contribution to the community in all spheres of life including the labour markets and to society at large.

STRATEGIC APPROACH

The Office aims to achieve its mission through the adoption of a person-centered approach, empowerment, advocacy and strategic leadership. It aims to influence policy, monitor relevant developments and identify best practices. The Office will be a catalyst for fostering a quality improvement culture by working with all relevant stakeholders facilitating an all inclusive society.



- **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUAL TREATMENT**
- **THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION**
- **ZERO TOLERANCE TO ABUSE**



THE OLDER PERSONS

The ageing process is a biological reality. It varies between societies and cultures. The European Commission has divided older people into three groups:

Older Workers (55-64 yrs),

Older People (65-79 yrs)

Frail Old People (80+ yrs)

The ageing challenge is usually illustrated by the ever-increasing level of dependency with advancing age.

The most significant statistic is the projected increase of 37,000 in the population aged 65+ up to 2025, meaning a 57% increase from 2010 over the coming 10 years.

MENTAL HEALTH

Covers the whole spectrum of the population from children to older persons.

Mental Health is defined a state of well-being in which every individual can realize his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully and is able to make a contribution to his or her community.

Mental ill-health leads to loss of productivity; added financial burdens to society, the individual and his/her family; and a higher risk of poverty.

THE ROLE OF THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND OLDER PERSONS



Through resources provided to it, this Office can sustain its mission to promote and protect older persons and persons with mental disorder.

This Office will:

- strive to continually keep issues concerning this vulnerable cohort at the top of the national agenda;
- identify the pertinent trends and make future projections regarding adequacy and effectiveness of services;
- mobilise the relevant stakeholders within the public, private, voluntary and church sectors;
- facilitate synergistic action, innovation and long-term planning; and
- ensure the continued implementation of a healthy and active ageing process which will be beneficial to individuals as well as to society and the economy.



photographs by Noel Mallia

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