Handout 10: Mental Health Legislation

The State Acts do vary as to the criteria for compulsory admission or treatment. Compulsory admission may be short-term (2-7 days) or extended (2-6 weeks). Many Mental Health Acts also allow for long-term committals which allow for compulsory treatment and supervision of people within the community. At the same time, Mental Health Tribunals (sometimes called mental health review boards) automatically review all committals, and patients have the right to appeal to the Tribunal for reassessment.

You might want to find out what the Mental Health Act in your State says about compulsory treatment, and the rights of consumers and carers.