2019 Submission - Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System

SUB: 0002.0001.0261

Name
Anonymous

What are your suggestions to improve the Victorian communitys understanding of mental illness and reduce stigma and discrimination?
N/A

What is already working well and what can be done better to prevent mental illness and to support people to get early treatment and support?
N/A

What is already working well and what can be done better to prevent suicide?
N/A

What makes it hard for people to experience good mental health and what can be done to improve this? This may include how people find, access and experience mental health treatment and support and how services link with each other.
N/A

What are the drivers behind some communities in Victoria experiencing poorer mental health outcomes and what needs to be done to address this?
N/A

What are the needs of family members and carers and what can be done better to support them?
"Since my wife first presented at ▆▆▆▆▆▆▆▆ in 2011 we have been economically deprived, we are hoping that the NDIS which we have only just had implemented now 04/19 will help however I as a carer and husband have been unable to work or earn a wage for eight years, this ofcourse means a second class existence and being part of the underclass of people living with mental illness imapacts."

What can be done to attract, retain and better support the mental health workforce, including peer support workers?
N/A

What are the opportunities in the Victorian community for people living with mental illness to improve their social and economic participation, and what needs to be done to realise these opportunities?
I would think that some sort of self employment support program would be helpful to people who are at home a supported program via NDIS where people can have administrative help in running

businesses might be good

Thinking about what Victorias mental health system should ideally look like, tell us what areas and reform ideas you would like the Royal Commission to prioritise for change?
"there should be better dignified treatment of family and carers by mental health staff and reception; i myself over a period of 4-5 years was ignored constantly made to wait in the foyer and ignored outright for up to 10 minutes each time I would visit the ward, this is in addition to my economic, emotional, financial and social devastation at that time; support was not offered for at least 6- 12 months for me as a carer, Centrelink rejected me 4 times for carers payment and I feared losing my house at that time, was out of work as a self employed business person and unable to work as I had to attend the mental health ward to support and visit my wife and attend meetings with staff and mental health professionals, I was alone and had minimal help when our lives were falling apart and of course treated with a level of contempt by staff, having my concerns often dismissed and being spoken to in a condescending way over and over. All of this devastated my hope and view of life and society for many years and I will probably never be the same."

What can be done now to prepare for changes to Victorias mental health system and support improvements to last?
Greater scrutiny of staff

Is there anything else you would like to share with the Royal Commission?
"Safety of females within wards should be taken more seriously my wife was the victim of an attempted sexual assault, the hospital said they would not be pressing charges and I felt that they did not take the situation seriously, treated me as if I was overreacting, they did not seem to care really, it was terrible, with one staff member at the time laughing about conditions of room security when I complained. This is the system I knew at ████████████ from 2011 - 2015 I visited there and took toiletries and clothing to wife and attended numerous meetings with Psychiatrists etc "