

I have already completed a thorough submission but wanted to add a more specific perspective:

I have spent the last few years trying to help my brother through issues relating to his diagnosed borderline personality disorder, mental illness of depression and anxiety, drug dependency –used for coping- and criminal charges resulting from his inability to regulate himself when under high stress. I am an educated individual with a bachelor of education and bachelor of psychology and still found it very, very difficult to get appropriate help for my brother, to navigate the system and to get helpful direction from any professionals. He ended up taking his own life in February 2019 after finding out- via someone who was unable to help him- that his children and wife were put into a refuge by Child Protection. We still don't even have a reason that has been given to us as that explains what he did that had them put into protection and his nuclear family weren't told about the situation so that we could offer support and help to my brother in his hour of need.

I tried to help my brother navigate so many systems that he was involved with due to issues arising from his mental health including: DHHS, criminal courts, corrections officer, family courts, mental health hospitals, psychologists, psychiatrists, housing support, employment, police, Centrelink, insurance companies, financial services. It was a nightmare; my brother was vulnerable, disabled through his mental health and the system was so disjointed and narrow in focus as each sector was only concerned about their small space. There was no provision for a professional global view of the complexities of this individual who required help.

There were big red flags on my brother and due to the narrow focus perhaps, no professional was able to take any initiative in trying to acknowledge these red flags. When my family called mental health institutions desperate for help and when my brother turned up at mental health hospitals the enormity of his suffering was ignored by a system under great pressure but also very single minded.

My suggestion is to provide case workers to such individuals as my brother; someone who can holistically understand all of the issues and help the family and individual navigate the system, receive support, advice, advocacy and basically be the front person/communication representative between all of the very disparate and often incongruous organisations in times of great traumatic experience resulting from mental health issues. This would have been such a valuable tool /resource for my brother and my family.