

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

## Organisation Name

N/A

## Name

Mr Robert Vassallo

## What are your suggestions to improve the Victorian community's understanding of mental illness and reduce stigma and discrimination?

"There is a Granted Conscientious amongst doctors and Psychiatrists that if someone sees something that is Not the "Norm" then that person is Crazy. They are Not The Authority on what people can see or have experienced as there are abnormal unexplained things going on at all times to various people. A lot of these people are actually in Tune with "The Real World" than the people which are diagnosing them and hold them under their Authority. I was held and treated like a prisoner because I reported to my local GP of seeing strange lights on my property. Next Day I was visited by a CAT team at home and forcibly Drugged by them every day for 6 months. I lost my business, my home and became homeless for nearly 2 years. I was an successful business man before that, written up in Business Age for my innovative work and next thing I am drugged to being a vegetable with my life in Tatters. I think you get the picture!! I am still recovering years later from the damage they did to my Brain!!"

## 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?

I think you need more experienced open minded carers or CAT teams which make the person feel more acceptable than just treated as a Crazy patient. I felt like a prisoner and was wanting someone who understood more of what I was saying than just being dismissed as an idiot . I was being evaluated by Foreign Medical staff who frankly had a lack of understanding me and after 6 months of being Drugged I finally was examined by an Australian Psychiatrist who just told me straight out that there is nothing wrong with me and signed my release papers. He was right- There was nothing wrong with me!!

## 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?

You have too many Foreign workers who do not understand Australians and can misinterpret things being told to them which they take as another meaning

## What are the needs of family members and carers and what can be done better to support them?

N/A

**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?**

In my case I had seen lights hovering over my property and just brought it up to my local GP... Next thing I'm forcibly being drugged in my own home by 4-5 people every day!! I think the case of each individual should be treated differently than putting everyone in one basket...in my case I wish I could have someone as an expert in the field of Paranormal incidents who would understand more of what I am describing than being assessed by a Pakistani Physiologist who has NO Idea that strange things Do Happen in The World and that He is Not the Authority of these things.

**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?**

"Mental Health IS a Stigma and as soon as people know you are being drugged and treated they instantly call you a Nutcase!! I lost all my friends, my partner left me taking our Son... You Lose everything!!! actually think some are gifted people which can see and hear things which others cannot- Not all cases but some and I think you need more outside experts which are at the forefront of these studies which can determine if the patient is really experiencing something Paranormal as these experts are more of an Authority on The Subject ."

**What can be done now to prepare for changes to Victorias mental health system and support improvements to last?**

I was brought before a Panel of Intellectual Buffoons who were more interested in displaying their power and Authority than actually listening to my experience. I have witnesses to what I saw and yet they would not allow them to bear witness to what I had seen. It was like they wanted me Shut Down and proclaimed insane than reason with facts and presented evidence. I was alone and my life was in their total control- very scary- They could have just locked me up in a Padded Cell and No one would be wiser...It;s Terrifying the power that they have!!

**Is there anything else you would like to share with the Royal Commission?**

"I had a good life, a successful business beautiful property on 60 acres in The Yarra Valley and now I live in a bedsitter on a disability pension..It has taken years to get my senses back and able to understand and function more normally after all The Drugs they gave me...I had to beg them to reduce my doses as I was falling over all the time lost most of ability to reason or function normally...Had problems even answering phones which made me lose control of my business dealings and could no longer fulfill my business requirements. I committed No Crime, I was a Model Citizen who represented Australia for Innovation on a World basis doing International Trade Shows and exporting my products World wide.and The next day I was a "Prisoner being drugged in my home at the Whim of a Local GP and inexperienced medical staff! I only thank Gog that I was diagnosed by someone who knew what they were doing and dismissed my case or else I would probably be still in The Program for no legitimate reason.. I wish The Commission would

investigate how this sort of thing can actually happen?"