

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

Organisation Name

SUB. 0002.0015.0003

N/A

Name

Anonymous

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

Access and entry for acute inpt services More designated drug and alcohol units

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?

Access to gaining an admission to an acute service is very difficult for families and carers. The focus on workers employed through the MECHS team or the CAT teams need to change. Staff are congratulated for getting pts out of the emergency departments and sending people home. The focus should be getting people help and admitting pts who are in crisis.

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

Getting people help.....discharging pts home should not be the focus ! Admitting pts in crisis allows access to a psychiatrist assessment ..which in the community is often beyond a pts reach ...due to no finances /bookings are closed.....or they are discharged from community services quickly without seeing a psychiatrist

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.

I agree the system is not broken....it just was not built right in the first place !!

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

Better access to inpt facilities

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

Families / carers need to be supported and included in clients care....more services for ongoing support for carers such as carers assist !

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

The increase of aggression and violence towards staff has increased due to a number of factors... the break down of families / generational poverty and increased drug and alcohol use and lack of respect within communities. Staff are constantly be abused both verbally and physically . No one comes to work for that.....the increase in sick leave and burn out is increasing . Staff need to be supported and protected from aggression and violence within the workplace. Increased use of CCTV and security staff within the mental health facilities and emergency departments needs to

be addressed / increased .to protect staff....who come to work in a caring role .and at the end of the day would like to go home to their families and loved ones physically and emotionally well....ready for another day.

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?

More ongoing support with inpt rehabs for 3- 6 mths admissions.

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?

Access to acute inpt mental health services

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

More acute inpt beds

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

I am employed at Albury Base Hospital (NSW) and yet we are under the governance of the Victorian health system and the Victorian chief psychiatrist through a MOU. Although we work under the NSW mental health act Why then have we been excluded from the Victorian Royal commission when all our directives for policy and care are being directed by the Victorian chief psychiatrist. Albury base hospital mental health unit needs to be included in the Victorian royal commission if it is being managed by Victorian health Our voices need to be heard as well