

**Your contribution**

**Should you wish to make a formal submission, please consider the questions below, noting that you do not have to respond to all of the questions, instead you may choose to respond to only some of them.**

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

1. Train 'Mental Health Providers' NOT To Falsify documentation.  
 2. Screen ALL MENTAL HEALTH WORKERS/Providers NOT to discriminate or hold a view that they have 'A Power' over the Mentally ill.  
 3. Educate 'Police in Victoria' NOT To Use Excessive Force over the 'Mentally ill' or MOCK/SLANDER. PERHAPS HAVE Specialise Trained Police.  
 4. Educate Justice System. eg Magistrates, Lawyers.  
 5. Try to Walk in the 'Mentally ill' person's SHOES! Empathy.

2. 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?

1. Cut out the Putdowns./ Stigma.  
 2. Boost Funding/ Specialised Units  
 3. Give People Hope - Respect.  
 4. Give Them Confidence.  
 5. Start Program in relation to 'Mental Health' in High Schools.

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

There is Nothing Working Well - Youth Suicide.  
 Educate Government/ Centre Link/ Hospital Staff/ Mental Health Workers. ITS NOT ABOUT Their Pay Packet ITS about 'Life'.  
 The Insults/ put downs that I have endured from Centrelink Staff/ Phys Psychologists, Psychiatrists, I've had to Deal with my Son's, my daughters and ex husbands Mental Health and my own - No Help! Not to mention the Mental Abuse/illness that My Father had to deal with!

4. 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.

What makes it hard is the put downs, breaking of appointments / The attitude of 'Who Cares' / The Arrogance of Mental Health Workers right up to CEO's.

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

1. Lack of professional help.
2. Life Line (a joke)
3. Beyond Blue no responsive.
4. Lack of doctors.
5. Visiting Psychiatrists - Nil in area coming from Melbourne - Waiting Lists.

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

1. School Counsellors - need updated training
2. Lack of Interest / Principal Cobram Secondary College.
3. More Access to Literature
4. Mental Health Programmes - Run them through Library / Men's Shed / CWA.
5. Offer 'Free Training'.



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

1. Employ CEO's That are interested in their jobs NOT \$\$\$ and Review their work.
2. Train more Psychiatrists /
3. Psychologists are 'Medicare Snipers'
- 4 Stop The Racism towards Refugees. Get them Mental Health Assistance. They are human beings.
- 5 Assist falsely Accused.

8. 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?

- There appears to be None!
1. Display interest in the Person with Mental Illness.
  2. Show the Respect.
  3. one Case Officer - not (5)
  - 4 Involve Them - Ask them about their Goals, what they want out of Life.
  5. Follow them up - Communicate.

9. Thinking about what Victoria's mental health system should ideally look like, tell us what areas and reform ideas you would like the Royal Commission to prioritise for change?

1. Change the Stigma - Advertise with everyday people NOT Footballers/ Politicians etc.

10. What can be done now to prepare for changes to Victoria's mental health system and support improvements to last?

Change The Structure -

Educate

Employ more Staff.

Employ Specialists With In Centre Link Office.

Employ Specialists at Schools.

Educate Teachers.

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

If we are a Democratic Country - We need to Include All into our Society.

Stop Politicians/ Policies demoralising the less fortunate.

Get Rid of The 'Mental Health Stigma'.

Make Police Aware of Mental Health in the Community:

Stop Lying in Medical Reports  
police Reports.

We need a 'Human Rights Charter'

We appear to Enjoy Abusing the Elderly Disabled (Mentally ill) our Children.

We need to Take a look at what we

have become -

Allow people to Access/or change Medical Records.

Mine is totally wrong/ I've tried to change it.

Privacy  
acknowledgement

I understand that the Royal Commission works with the assistance of its advisers and service providers. I agree that personal information about me and provided by me will be handled as described on the Privacy Page.

☒ Yes ☐ No



NATIONAL

## Haunted by inaccurate criminal files

May 30, 2004 — 10.00am

**A woman cleared of sexual abuse is trying to remove her name from a police database. Mark Russell reports.**

Civil libertarians are calling for an overhaul of police recordkeeping after a mother of two discovered she had been wrongly listed as a sex offender for more than a decade.

The Victoria police database states Michelle Thornton was charged on February 18, 1994, with sexually abusing a boy, 5, but this was in fact the date a police superintendent recommended no charges be laid against her.

The case was dropped and Ms Thornton, from Cobram, was never charged after an investigation by Shepparton police found the allegations could not be proved.

Ms Thornton, 45, a disabled pensioner who has multiple sclerosis, was devastated to find her name listed on the police Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) database.

She had filed a Freedom of Information request to check if her name was on the LEAP system after reading media reports about police officers improperly accessing information on the database.

The FoI documents revealed Ms Thornton's case was listed under the heading, "LEAP, Victoria Police, Incident Report and Case Progress".

Ms Thornton's name, age, occupation, height, weight, hair, complexion, build, race and address are listed under "Accused details".

Rape, indecent assault, and sexual penetration with a child, are included in the "offence" category.

The "remarks" section reads: "Allegations of sexual molestation".