

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

SUB: 0002.0032.0155

What are your suggestions to improve the Victorian community's 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?

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?

N/A

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?

N/A

What can be done now to prepare for changes to Victoria's mental health system and

support improvements to last?

N/A

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

"An experience I endured: Someone else called an ambulance when I was having a panic attack (despite me begging them not to as it would only make things worse). Upon arrival of paramedics, they came into my home up the stairs with flashlights and said I had no choice but to go with them, if I didn't go voluntarily they would physically intervene. All despite me not wanting to go and knowing there would be no benefit to me at all in being forced to attend the ED, in fact knowing it would be traumatic. In terms of physical health, it is a human right to refuse treatment. No one can force you to receive medical attention you do not want! To truly treat mental health as the same as physical health, mental health sufferers need to have the same rights! Upon arrival at the ED as it was a mental health call I was placed in the police patrolled section, treated like a criminal. After waiting hours, the nurses could do nothing for me and I was sent back home. I was so traumatised by this experience I developed PTSD. "