



Wednesday 17 April

Have your say to improve Victoria's mental health system

Victorians are being invited to share their experiences, views and ideas to improve Victoria's mental health system.

Today the Royal Commission into Victoria's mental health system opened a new portal that allows people to share their contributions online as a written submission, images, audio or video content.

The Commission is seeking input from the whole community. Whether you are living with mental illness, caring for a loved one, working in the sector or just have a general interest in mental health – the Commission wants to hear your views and ideas for change.

Contributions can be brief comments, or longer more formal submissions. The submission process takes users through a series of questions on reducing stigma and discrimination, preventing suicide, early intervention and how people access and experience treatment and support.

With a target of broad and meaningful engagement, the Commission wants to create a future mental health system that meets the needs of all Victorians. Every contribution will inform the Royal Commission's reports.

In addition to taking submissions, the Commission is running a series of community consultation sessions around rural, regional and metropolitan locations during April and May.

Penny Armytage is leading the Royal Commission as Chair, and is supported by commissioners Professor Bernadette McSherry, Professor Allan Fels AO and Dr Alex Cockram.

The Royal Commission will deliver its interim report in November this year, with the final report delivered in October 2020.

To have your say, learn about upcoming consultations and to stay up to date with the Royal Commission's activities visit www.rcvmhs.vic.gov.au

Formal submissions close on 5 July 2019. If you have any questions or need help to make a submission, please call 1800 00 11 34.

If you or a family member has immediate concerns or requires assistance, contact beyondblue on 1300 224 636 or Lifeline on 13 11 14.

Quotes attributable to Chair of the Commission, Penny Armytage

"This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve the way we deal with mental health in Victoria. We are committed to taking on the considered suggestions made by consumers, carers, family members and specialists around practical improvements to the system."

"Through the first consultation sessions, we have already experienced the genuine goodwill felt towards the Royal Commission and the incredible willingness of people to share their experiences and insights, even when this can bring up painful memories."