



**Tuesday 26 March 2019**

## **Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System begins**

The aim of the Royal Commission is to provide the community with a clear and ambitious set of actions that will change Victoria's mental health system and enable Victorians to experience their best mental health.

Today the Royal Commission launched its website and announced the first round of community consultations will begin in early April.

The Commission is led by Chairperson Penny Armytage, along with Dr Alex Cockram, Professor Allan Fels AO and Professor Bernadette McSherry.

*"We recognise that meaningful changes to Victoria's mental health system and improvements to mental health outcomes can only happen by listening and respecting the views of the community," Chairperson Penny Armytage explained.*

*"We want to hear from as many different people as possible and we will provide multiple ways for people to share their experiences and make contributions throughout the life of the Commission. This will be a Royal Commission for all Victorians."*

The Commission begins its community consultation sessions in Whittlesea on 5 April and will conduct a range of face-to-face consultation sessions across Victoria during April and May.

*"To develop our findings and recommendations, we will engage widely with Victorian communities and encourage people to share their experiences and suggestions," Ms Armytage said.*

*"This will be through a range of ways including community forums, dedicated discussions for people living with mental illness, their families or carers, roundtable sessions on local issues, written submissions, research and public hearings."*

Given the Commission's remit and timelines, the focus will be on identifying and solving system-wide issues, rather than investigating individual cases or incidents.

**To find out about upcoming consultations and how you can contribute to the Royal Commission, visit [www.rcvmhs.vic.gov.au](http://www.rcvmhs.vic.gov.au)**

*If you or a loved one requires immediate support, contact Lifeline - 13 11 14 or BeyondBlue - 1300 224 636*