

Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System

To the Royal commission into mental health 22/may/2019

Victoria 3000.

First I want to congratulate the State of Victoria and the current government for setting up this inquiry. It is a very courageous to do and is to be commended.

The state of Victoria followed this up by appointing a very talented and impressive set of commissioners most of which are well known through the media and are outstanding people of high integrity.

The Inquiry I suspect will unearth a very wide range of issues relating to mental health in Victoria some sad some some contentious and some unjust.

I intend to make 3 three separate submissions although I am a little hesitant to do all three.

The three concerned are 1 The tramways .2 The Australian Public service.

3. The [REDACTED] hospital and its superintendent Dr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Although I am a little reluctant to do so at this point of time but will see.

4. My first submission relates however to the tramways.

5. I obtained a position as a tram conductor in 1979 located at the tramways depot in Mount alexander road ascot-vale.

6. I was employed there for 9 years and 4 months and left on or about the 11<sup>th</sup> April 1988. It was quite a long time.

7. In the first six years or so of my job as a tram conductor under the leadership of then Depot Master [REDACTED] things went reasonably well.

8. In my early days I was subject to a complaint by a woman who claimed that the conductor went gaga when she presented a \$ 50 note to the conductor.

9. It was however definitively ascertained that that was not me . I had witnesses the tram driver who quite categorically stated that he did not hear anything. To this day I do not know how the lady was mistaken.

10. During my 9.4 years as a tram conductor I also incurred a 2<sup>nd</sup> complaint by three women who complained about being abrupt to them. This was as a result of me handing the wrong ticket to the women.They wanted a daily ticket whereas I handed them a 2 hour ticket. This was because the 2 hour ticket and the daily ticket were of the same colour. And the daily ticket was in fact made out of a very flimsy cardboard. This complaint would have been around 1983 or thereabouts. Therefore during a span of 9 years and 4 months I incurred only 1 Complaint from passengers. Only 1.

11. It is important that the Commission bear this in mind. Plus the fact that 1 complaint was rather trifling in nature and on a scale of seriousness on the very low end of the scale. Certainly it would not be considered as a sackable offence.

12. However by that time the newly formed labour government had installed a new manager had been installed at the Essendon Tramways Depot in Mount Alexander road Ascot-Vale.

13 His name was Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] By that time I had accumulated approximately 6 years of service. Upon hearing of the report Mr [REDACTED] threatened to sack me .

14. He spoke in Broken English to me and told me he would sack me if this happened again. In the afternoon on the same day of my shift he put an undercover police woman on my tram who engaged me in conversation and then reported the whole conversation to Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] In the fact for the next 3 years of my remaining employment with the trams Mr [REDACTED] had put me under very close surveillance and I suspect had on numerous times put undercover police to watch me on the Trams. I call them undercover police but in Tramways speak they were known as spotters.

15. Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was totally incompetent had/held extreme racial views and yet had been put in charge of preponderantly what could be defined as a Migrant workforce. By his own admission I have it under the Freedom of Information Act Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had me under close surveillance for the remaining time I was there. Which would approximately amount to 3 years.

16. In the meantime during those three ensuing years while remaining to work as a tram conductor a lot happened to me which would eventually lead me to suffer from mental depression and ultimately charged with three criminal offences. Unjust unfair and over top I think. The Victorian Justice system intent on penalizing a hard working individual .Who gave himself freely so as to serve the Victorian community as a public service to the public transport needs of his fellow Victorian citizens. I did not gain much from that job. Very little except troubles galore.

17. Let me now describe as to what happened in the ensuing three years of my conductorship under the authority of the Depot Manager Mr [REDACTED]

18. In the latter part of the 1980's while waiting at the tram stop in Abbotsford street North Melbourne . I found myself being threatened by the criminal [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

19. At that tram stop Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] told me and repeated several times that he had lot lots and lots of guns at home and he was going to kill me with them. This incident happened on a Tuesday.

20. On the same week but on late afternoon while I was collecting fares on a W Class tram with Mr [REDACTED] facing to my behind. He told me that he would put a .32 Colt automatic through my back. And punch me in the mouth.

21. But wait there is more. Later about 1 to 2 years after the [REDACTED] incident I went for a short stroll behind the depot in Mt Alexander Road Ascot -vale. While heading back to the depot I noticed a car beside me with an open window on the passenger side.

22. The Driver then called out "I will put a shotgun through your head" aggressively and maliciously. He claimed I had dropped a paper in the gutter near his house.

23. But wait. There is more violence to come. On a Saturday afternoon while returning from [REDACTED] North Melbourne in a private car with my tram driver driving the car . We were followed by a cab chassis or a small truck with Victorian government licence plates.

24. Upon returning to the depot the driver of the truck entered the car park of the tramways depot parked his truck in the depot car park. And then came

rushing to the entrance of the tramways building with his two fists drawn wanting to punch me. Who knows I could have been the victim of a one punch attack.

25. On another occasion at the back of the depot an elderly resident at the back of the depot rushed to me wanting to punch me and calling me a robber.

26. As the violence or the extreme violence escalated including the close and incessant supervision of me by Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I became depressed and anxious. According to the tramways panel comprised of three senior officers of the tramways I was suffering from mental depression.

27. I became so frightful of Mr [REDACTED] that he might kill me when he in fact does get on the tram again that in the end I ended up carrying a small baton. A silly and stupid thing to do . For that I was fined \$100. Which is fare or fair enough.

28. Nevertheless I carried on with my work as a tram conductor serving the community with diligence care and gave my full commitment to the Job.

29. However in 1988 April as the Tram was about to go back to the depot a man boarded the tram . Paid his fare and I gave him his ticket. As we the driver and me were in a rush to go back to the depot as the run had eaten into our meal time I inadvertently did not punch 2 holes in the ticket. It was a

2 hour ticket that the man bought and I needed to punch 2 holes one for the date the other for the time. As it happens the man concerned complained to tramway management that the conductor had not punched his ticket.

30. The manager Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] informed me of this complained and of course told me off in no uncertain terms. This happened be on the Friday.

31. However this incident gave Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] a great opportunity to have me sacked. As it is and was an essential element of my job that I punch 2 holes in every ticket I sold. And he pounced. He grabbed the opportunity with both hands.

32. On the Sunday of the same week I was again on shift for the special Zoo tram as there was the coming of the Pandas in Melbourne. He arranged with a member of his staff known as revenue clerk handed me a ticket outfit without the punch . The aim being that I would fail to punch tickets on the tram and as a consequence this being a dereliction of duty a fundamental duty which would give Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] ample justification to have me sacked.

33. There is ample evidence that Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] did this acting in concert with his revenue clerk not to put in the punch in my conductor's bag on purpose. Because the revenue clerk kept asking me as whether I wanted the ticket punch several times. I was never asked such a question during the 9.4

years working as a tram conductor. As it was automatically taken for granted that the ticket punch is part and parcel of the conductors ticket bag. Part of the conductors outfit and therefore no need to ask a conductor whether he wants the ticket punch to be deposited in his or her bag. But on the Sunday the revenue clerk kept on asking me as whether I wanted a ticket punch in my bag .it was a repeated question of his questioning.

34. Thus when I boarded the Special Zoo Tram on that fateful day on April 10<sup>th</sup> 1988 expecting to have a ticket punch contained in my conductors bag there was no punch.

35. this was catastrophic to me .On the Friday Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had told me off about not punching a ticket and here I was with a bag full of tickets with no ticket punch. Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had got me . He had been unable to do so or find fault in my duties as a tram conductor . By this time however he had finally got me.

36. As we proceeded towards the Elizabeth Street Terminus the driver of the tram at the terminus got off to have a coffee or buy a coffee. We were already late but no the driver stopped and had a coffee instead of proceeding towards [REDACTED] station as we were instructed to do.



37. In the meantime I tried to ring the tramway authorities at what was then known as Radio Control to inform them of this that I had no punch and therefore could not punch the tickets. There was a tramways telephone box at the Elizabeth street terminus of which I had the key. I thought that by informing the radio control I would be on safe ground as I could explain to them as to why I could not punch tickets as per the requirements of the Job.

38. But alas . The Phone did not work. You can therefore imagine how gaga I was . Yes Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had really got me this time.

39. In any case we then proceeded along towards our destination. The tram by then was fully packed it had over 100 people on it .All going to see the pandas.

40. Sure enough A passenger on the tram politely asked me for a ticket. I stated to him that I couldn't do that now. Because I had no ticket punch in my conductors outfit. He suggested that I put a pencil mark instead .one for the date .the other for the time. As previously explained I needed to punch 2 holes in that ticket. Me and the passenger were politely talking with each other .When suddenly an elderly British lady who happened to hear my conversation with the polite passenger the fact that I could not punch tickets turned round and send me in no uncertain times in a very heavy British accent Then What are you Doing here?

41. Well I could say I am working my guts out to help passengers such as yourself .Giving up my Sundays to work hard providing an important and essential service to the public.The Tramway work at the time was very low pay and very long hours. I was really performing a community service to the public rather than having a Job. That benefited me in any way. Long hours threats low pay inept and racist management. I was community minded and wanted to be involved in the community assisting the community hence my willingness to work as a tram conductor. There was very little in it for me.

42. Besides what are you doing here? The British stole the land we are standing on . Took all the Gold out of Ballarat Victoria back to England hence the ballarat railway line was constructed for the express purpose of taking back the Gold from the Colonies back to England. So one could also ask what are the British doing here.? They are still here. The Queen is still the head of State of Australia. Such remarks would convince anyone that the time for an Australian republic is well overdue.

43. The Statement then what are you doing here has strong overtones of racism colonialism meanness .It is malicious and intended to arouse anger and retaliation. Surely a good person a nice friendly person a fellow citizen would or could have said something better and nicer. It shows that most tramway passengers on Melbourne trams were either antagonistic towards Tram

conductors and deliberately went out of their way to treat Tram Conductors like dirt.

44. By this time the other passengers on the tram seemed to have gained the impression that I was harassing an old lady. They intervened .This was not the case however. I no time did I swear at the lady or unlawfully assaulted her. I certainly could not have unlawfully assaulted her physically as I had both hands in the conductors bag with my hands on the tickets. Yes both hands were firmly planted in my conductors bag.

45. As for being in fear of me .How could this be? I made no threats to her nor did I swear at her. I say to you categorically that I did not assault [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on the special zoo tram on april 10 1988. In fact the Tramway panel comprised of 3 senior members of the tramways staff who deal with tram incidents everyday of their working lives highly experienced people categorically stated that I DDID NOT ASSAULT ANYONE ON SPECIAL ZOO TRAM .

46.It was their categorical view and they have written notes on it .If you care to inspect the tramways archives. That they clearly stated that at no stage did I assault ANYONE on Special Zoo Tram on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1988.

47. Moving on .After a few trips up and down to the Zoo. On the final trip when I arrived at the zoo I noticed a police divisional wagon at the terminus at [REDACTED] zoo.Obviously the tramway authorities had called the police. That is Victoria police.

48. However as it later eventuated this was not the case . The Victoria police members were patrolling the surrounding area at the time and they had been flagged down by tram inspectors [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

49. [REDACTED] was in fact a senior rank inspector known as a divisional inspector.In tramway parlance A DI.A few weeks before this incident I noticed [REDACTED] raise his arm and say 'sack them all' in reference to sacking all conductors. As the talk at the time was that the Government intended to sack or retrench all conductors. My incident provided [REDACTED] with a Golden opportunity to effect his wish to sack conductors. The Government's aim was to show that conductors were not good .Were lazy did not collect fares and in general were not performing well in their overall duties. These contentions were being used by the Government to justify as to why they wanted to get rid of conductors. Enter [REDACTED] he wanted to show to the Government or the state of Victoria that he was assisting the Government in getting rid of conductors . As per the wishes of the government. In the end he got wish of 'sack them all'. Because when the Kennett Government privatized the tram

and rail network. They actually sacked almost all of the tramway inspectors. Which meant that [REDACTED] was sacked. As per his wish to 'sack them all' his wish for the tram conductors. But this time it was the majority of the TRAMWAYS INSPECTORS that were sacked.

50. In fact initially at first the inspectors had contacted members of the TRANSIT PATROL whom were I believe in the employ of my then employer the Metropolitan Transit Authority. However the focus of the transit patrol was mainly in patrolling the Train network and not the tramway network.

51. I was aware of the transit patrol in the sense that I knew they were employees of the Railways. Little did I know at the time that these people who were in the employ of the railways had been granted the same powers as the Victoria police. In the sense that they could arrest you and question in similar fashion as members of the Victoria police were entitled to do.

52, In retrospect I found this to be quite concerning . Because the State of Victoria should not have 2 police forces in tow. There should only be one organization exercising the coercive powers of the state. AND that organization for good or for bad should only reside in the Victoria Police Force and no one else. At least I as a member of the PUBLIC and a Victorian am legally entitled to clearly know as to which organization I can turn to when I am faced with a crisis situation. I also know that Victoria police is

under the Control of its Commissioner of police the Police Minister and ultimately the Victorian Government . I have a clear path as to where to complain against Victoria police should I have the need to do so. But as for the Transit patrol who do I complain to? Who is the responsible authority or person that CONTROLS its actions and decisions? It is not known .It is fuzzy. And yet they proceeded to question me In their Flinders Street offices as if they were the Real Police.

53. In fact this was eventually the view of the state government . As when the incoming liberal Government came in they abolished these railway investigator officers as their official title was then known. And its offshoot the TRANSIT PATROL WAS TOTALLY ABOLISHED. And yet I fell prey to them and their antics when I really should not have been .

54. When the tram stopped at the Terminus a single member of the Victoria police stepped on the tram. At that point DI Inspector [REDACTED] had been told by some passengers that I had a baton in my possession and that I had hidden the baton in the Tram Driver's cabin. Upon entering DI inspector [REDACTED] rushed or run to the cabin retrieved the baton and handed it to the Victorian policeman. In the meantime I tried to escape I was caught by the Victorian policeman who again asked me to accompany him to the police station. I agreed to do that. I said OK.

55. Of course DI INSPECTOR [REDACTED] could have acted differently .he could clearly see that I was mentally unwell at the time. He could have simply put me in his car and taken me back to the Depot and asked me to go home.Or even driven home in his tramway car himself back to my home address. DI [REDACTED] could not resist the opportunity my INCIDENT provided him. Which was to show that Tram Conductors were not Good inefficient did not collect fares. As these were some of the reasons that The State of Victoria had decided to get rid of them. It was His Golden Opportunity to prove to the Victorian Government that such was the case. His Job title is an INSPECTOR and therefore as one fellow trammie workmate said to me HE MUST FIRST INSPECT AND THEN ACT. Not ACT and then INSPECT. [REDACTED] action constitute a violation of my WORK RIGHTS as a tram CONDUCTOR in that my JOB as a tram conductor ends and STARTS at the ESSENDON TRAMWAY DEPOT and NOT at the Flinders Street Offices at Flinders street station.

56. To any objective observer one could see that I was not well. A little compassion at the time would have gone a long way. I know I was wrong in carrying the baton. But I did not assault [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is liar .She was Never assaulted by me . I figure she was trying to make money out of the Tramways in the form of compensation alleging that she was assaulted by a tram conductor. NOT TRUE AT ALL.

57. And as I outlined above Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had deliberately removed the ticket punch in concert with his revenue clerk so that he could sack me.

58. He created the very circumstances and the context within which the incident occurred.

59. I say this to Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] if at the time when the three ladies complained about being issued the wrong ticket and my rather little abrupt encounter with those three ladies warranted the sack or my dismissal from the tramways. He should have sacked me then and there by making an adverse report about me to tramways head office. Which would have led to my sacking.

60 .Although not an excuse the three ladies were rude themselves .they jumped out of their seats like a bat out of hell . As if to say HA HA we got you. We caught you out. You made a mistake. You are a stupid and inefficient conductor. Most tramways passengers attitudes towards TRAM CONDUCTORS followed that pattern. Waiting for you to do just a small mistake so that they could JUMP AT YOU.

61. It was not fair for Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to keep me there at the tramways and effect a regime of close surveillance and harassment so as to find something



or some justification to sack me. Its almost a type of unlawful imprisonment to keep me there .If he didn't want me there then he should have sacked me.

62. I was summoned to the tramway panel in the city and interviewed by 3 senior members of the tramways. THE PANEL. You must understand that the PANEL IS CONSISTED by three SENIOR AND EXPERIENCED TRAMWAY MANAGEMENT who INVESTIGATE ALL INCIDENTS THAT REQUIRE INVESTIGATION ON TRAMWAY VEHICLES and surrounding property. They know their STUFF and they do it well. Throughout the whole year.

63. They concluded all three of them THE THREE PANEL MEMBERS that I DID NOT ASSAULT ANYONE on the tram. Definitevely. AS a matter of certainty. However then they removed me from tram conducting duties offering a job in the foundry at Preston Tramways workshop.

64. When I asked the Secretary of the Tramways union [REDACTED] then known as the Australian Tramways omnibus and employees association .Then Secretary of the Tramways union [REDACTED] point blank refused. Citing the fact that I was mentally ill. And therefore I should be let go off as soon as possible.

65. Surely a union to whom I had paid thousands of dollars to one would expect would look after its mentally ill members. In particular the Tramways

panel stated that I WAS SUFFERING FROM MENTAL DEPRESSION. Its in their REPORT. ALL OF THE ABOVE ARE FULLY RECORDED IN MY PERSONNEL FILE at the DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT or the RELEVANT STATE GOVERNMENT which has the archives relating to former TRAM CONDUCTORS in the employ Of the trams. Therefore everything I am saying is not my opinion BUT the objective deliberations of the SENIOR MANAGEMENT of the TRAMWAYS. Firstly known as the MMTB and subsequently as the Metropolitan Transit Authority. I happen to have been employed BY BOTH OF THESE ENTITIES.

66. In fact that was true. I was suffering from mental depression.

67. As advised by then secretary of the ATMOEA [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I received a summons to attend court on 3 charges . One related to the unlawful assault of a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] . An elderly British lady who was trying to show British superiority over a non anglo Australian. Presumably she thought she was still in her British Colony. Most of the State of Victoria still functions within the mindset of a colonial outposts. It shows that the State of Victoria has not changed. It remains and is a colonial outpost of Britain. Female British migrants to Australia certainly think so and act that way. As evidenced by the old British ladys statement to me Then what are you doing here?

68 Which in part Australia is partly a british colony. What a nasty thing to say to a hard working tram conductor who woke up at 4 AM in the morning to

get to work and help passengers. And get treated in such a vile uncalled for manner. I HAD DONE NOTHING TO HER WHICH warranted such a remark.

69 Enter the magistrate on February 8 or 9 February 1989. Here all compassion all relevant factors and the surrounding circumstances of the case were thrown out.

70 I incurred a massive fine of a total of \$800 and a criminal conviction to boot. This is unjustified. It seems to be it was the word of an OLD BRITISH LADY against the word of an ETHNIC AUSTRALIAN Tram conductor. It seems quite clear who would have been the likely winner in such a scenario. In the courts it pays to be white and British. YES its OK TO BE WHITE AND BRITISH. As the outcome will always be in your favour rather than the Ethnic Australian. Especially an ethnic TRAM CONDUCTOR.

71. Seldom are offenders given the maximum penalty for offences .And yet here I was I received the maximum penalty. She fined me \$800 which was the maximum penalty prescribed by law for all the charges I INCURED. And convicted me and gave me a criminal record. Out of the three charges I was in effect only guilty of one charge . Carrying a baton. The rest I was not guilty of. I certainly was not guilty of unlawfully assaulting [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Senior management of the tramways 3 of them stated so after conducting a thorough investigation of the incident. These 3 senior managers are

extremely experienced in all matters relating to any incidents on the tramways. They deal with such matters everyday of their working lives. This material and their conclusions as to what happened during the incident should have been provided as evidence to the magistrate. But they were not. Clearly the Victorian justice system works only with Black Letter Law. It does not consider the context and relevant circumstances of each individual case. But applies black letter law blindly. Also the courts have little concept of how Mental illness affects offending. They have little idea of mental illness. And take no notice of how such can affect the circumstances of the offending.

The key circumstance being here that Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] deliberately removed the ticket punch from my conductors bag. Also the three senior managers of the Tramways who investigated the case and had the FULL BRIEF of the police case at their disposal stated that not only did I NOT ASSAULT ANYONE but also that I was suffering from "MENTAL DEPRESSION". Which was correct 100 per cent. Remember as I stated above that I had received three serious threats to kill during my time working as a tram conductor in Melbourne.

72. When I Told my lawyer of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] of Slater and Gordon a senior and experienced lawyer who represented me in the case and now also President Of the Bulldogs Footscray Football Club that the penalty handed to me by the magistrate was a little harsh. He jumped from

his chair and said Harsh? It was more than that. It was VERY HARSH'. When a senior and experienced lawyer whose main brief is to serve the Court in terms of his 1<sup>st</sup> responsibility .Then it is certainly time to take Notice. Because I think he was right. It is not only me who believes that the penalty was harsh. Many members of the Public has also commented that the Penalty was harsh. In fact a senior officer of the then Commonwealth employment service also commented that to him the charges appeared to be wishy washy. MICKY MOUSE CHARGES and wondered as to why I had incurred such charges.

73. I have had a look at the Brief Biography of the magistrate who convicted me and clearly this is a person who was born into privilege. Say no more. But may be I should . I was judged by a white ANGLO Female born into white Anglo Saxon privilege. I do not agree that I assaulted [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on special Zoo tram on the 10<sup>th</sup> april 1988. I believe that this conviction is wrong. Although I respect the COURTS DECISION. However I am of the strong belief that I did not ASSAULT [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

74. I now begin to sum up.The Victorian Justice failed me and was found wanting and quite inefficient at dealing with persons who at the time of the offending suffered from some form of mental illness. The union tramways failed me ATMOEA its secretary [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who said I was mentally Ill and therefore because of that he would not help me. I was charged by the

TRANSIT PATROL an obscure and unknown entity to me whom I thought were concerned with investigating Railway offences but as it turned out had the same powers of the Victorian Police. This entity was subsequently abolished by [REDACTED] the minister for transport in the Kennett Government . There are strong constitutional issues to consider here. Did we at the time have 2 police forces in Victoria? It seems so in retrospect. I was removed from the tram and taken to the Flinders Street Station offices of the Transit Patrol. I was interviewed as if I was at a police station. This was a clear breach of the Federal Award of the Tramway employees. That award stated that my employment started and ended at the Tramway Depot that I was assigned to. Which in my case was the Essendon Tramways Depot at MT Alexander Road ASCOT VALE. Not at the offices of the Railways at Flinders street station. Finally I was discriminated against by [REDACTED] the Tram Inspector. [REDACTED] could clearly see that I was not feeling well that day. He could have packed me in the tramways car and taken me home. Instead he pursued a course of his own so as to show to the Government that he was helping them remove conductors. IN THE END HE WAS SACKED HIMSELF. That's KARMA for you. WANT more KARMA? The informant [REDACTED] [REDACTED] senior patrol officer with the TRANSIT PATROL of the railways who brought the charges against me also died aged in his thirties. Why did all this

happen? Simply because the Victorian Government wanted to get rid of tram conductors. Being a tram conductor IS DEFINITELY NOT A GOOD JOB. It is low PAY WITH EXTREMELY LONG HOURS. Tramways have always had difficulty in filling tramway conductor positions . And they should be grateful in FINDING people willing to do the Job. Instead of staying on the dole.

I was discriminated against by my union the ATMOEA . Surely unions should help ALL employees .Particularly those employees who have or are suffering from Mental illness. Unions take note . You failed in your duty to protect me and or assist me. The UNION in the instance could have easily helped me.

75. I had the Ticket Punch deliberately removed by The Manager [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

76. At this point it is time to close this submission. However it is also an opportune time to mention some other incidents that made me mentally depressed. Or suffering mental depression.

77. There was a revenue clerk of German Background. At one point My conductor BOX was broken . This was a Plastic BOX which contained all of my tickets and yes ticket Punch. This revenue clerk of German descent claimed that I had deliberately Broken my Conductors Box due to my mental illness or perceived mental illness. However this was not the case. The Box had been

broken accidentally . I had not broken it deliberately. But this revenue clerk kept haranguing me about it constantly citing the fact that in his view I was suffering from Mental illness. After having left the trams I bumped into him in William Street in the city. He again made fun of me because of my mental illness or his perception of me as being mentally ill.

78. Then was the tram driver his surname starts with ■ and finishes with ■ he put his hands around my throat trying to choke me. You only have to fill ■ to figure out his name.

79 End result of all the above suffered from mental depression . Fined convicted and given a criminal record. For something I did not do. Which is unlawfully assault ■ ■ I am only GUILTY IN CARRYING THE BATON. ONLY ONE CHARGE I AM GUILTY OF. NOT TWO OTHERS OF WHICH I WAS FOUND GUILTY.

80. Finally let me thank you for giving me the opportunity to put forth my narrative with the tramways. I hold the Commissioners in very high regard and have every confidence in them that they will perform in the bests interests of all parties.

81. It is this confidence which has impelled me to give my narrative and my time at the tramways to the commissioners.



My name is [REDACTED]

My email is [REDACTED]

Once again thank you.

**82. SOME ADDITIONAL POINTS.**

**83. Employment at the tramways brought into the surface everything that was wrong in Australian society.**

**84. The senior management of the Tramways and in particular MR [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was not only incompetent paranoid racist. But he actively discriminated against people whom he perceived to be mentally ill. Such as myself.**

**85. It shows that if mental health issues are to be addressed fully. There needs to be strong ATTITUDINAL change towards mental illness in wider society in general. Ordinary members of the public need to be better informed about mental health issues and be more socially progressive tolerant and accepting of those who may have some mental health issues.**

**86. This is an important and vital issue which the Commissioners should actively consider.**

87. As it is not much use spending Millions of dollars building mental health units engaging more nurses and so. Society's attitudes towards mental health issues need to change radically.

88. If fundamental Attitudinal change about Mental Illness is not achieved in the wider society all mental health spending will come to nought. Frequently it is more the attitudes of other people that exacerbates your disability . More so than the disability itself. Disability after all is a social construction. Particularly in the case of MENTAL ILLNESS this is more so than in other ILLNESSES.

89. My guess is that it will be up to the Commisioners of the enquiry as to how best to engage society and members of the general public as to what type of strategies can be put in place so as to address the vital need for attitudinal change towards mental illness throughout society.

90. Look at the Tramways and its management staff. And see how dire the situation is.

91. For example the German Background REVENUE CLERK who claimed that I DELIBERATELY BROKE MY CONDUCTORS BOX in a fit of madness or rage.

92. This was not true at all. It was broken ACCIDENTALLY .I believe when I accidentally dropped it on the floor.

93. I am prepared to sign a statutory declaration as to the above. I did not break it deliberately. And no I was not in a state of rage or madness.

94. The German background revenue clerk also bullied me outside in the Street. In William Street Melbourne.

95. He made fun of me as to my mental status in the street.

96. You get the feeling I was working with a pack of nasty Bastards at the tramways?

97. I think so,

98. Look at the Tramways Union secretary [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who said the UNION WOULD NOT HELP ME or was not prepared to provide assistance as it believed I was mentally ill. This was said in the presence of Essendon tramway delegate [REDACTED] at the TPO panel meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1988 at [REDACTED] Melbourne.

99. A useless nasty union. Was happy to take my DUES money throughout my nine years and four months working as a tram conductor. But was not prepared to help or assist me in my hour of need.

100. Look at Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] One of the worst people I have met in my working life.

101. When he received the complaint from the three women whom I gave the wrong ticket to. He told me at that point of that time that he intended to sack me if it happened again.

102. And I believe he should have. If at that point of time in his opinion he thought I was not Suitable for the job of tram conductor so much so that the only alternative was to sack me or dismiss me from the tramways. Then he should have dismissed me.

103. Instead he kept me there for the NEXT THREE YEARS and as someone said to me so as TO TORTURE ME. Harass me threaten spit at me . all with the aim of sacking me.

104. I blame senior tramways management for appointing Mr [REDACTED] [REDACTED] as TRAMWAYS DEPOT MANAGER ESSENDON DEPOT which is one of the tramways biggest depots in Melbourne. It is in other words a very important post.

105. For clearly I believe it was him who was not up to the job and unable to cope with the demands of being a DEPOT manager at Essendon tramways depot.

106. I was told by one tram driver that he was going to the pub at lunchtimes to drink beer as he was having problems and difficulties with the role of Tramways depot manager at Essendon Tramway Depot.

107. **FINALLY WHAT HOPE HAVE YOU GOT IF YOU ARE SUFFERING FROM MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA ?**

108. None I would say . The State does nothing constructive to assist people who suffer from some mental health issues.

109. Instead it puts into effect its regimen of punitive and forced psychiatry which is ALL PUNITIVE IN NATURE so as to silence dissidents .

110. Or to make invisible and hide those it believes should not partake in the daily routines or daily life IN ITS SOCIETY.or in the daily life of the state of Victoria.

111. Its hard not too get Paranoid.

112. Look at what happened to me.

113. Everything worked against me.

114. THE COURT SYSTEM.

115. THE TRAMWAYS INSPECTORS.

116. THE UNIONS.

117. The GERMAN Background Revenue Clerk who often made FUN with regards to other people's weakness.

118. The Tram Passengers. Recall 'then what are you doing here?

119. Paying taxes .Instead of being on the dole.

120. Three vile threats to Kill. From various members of the public which includes 2 from one of Melbourne's most dangerous criminal of the period of the 1980's Mr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Later on he reversed his car outside a king street Night Club into assistant commissioner [REDACTED] son. Because his son would not buy a hot dog for his girlfriend. Threatened by ANOTHER GENTLEMEN AT THE BACK OF THE TRAMWAYS DEPOT. When he stated he would BLOW MY HEAD OFF WITH A SHOTGUN.

121. Who me paranoid? Who wants to know?

122. The Tramways work environment was a HOT BED OF PARANOIA. You were bound to develop it sooner or later.

123. Finally my theme song would have to be I AM STILL STANDING.

124. Which shows the capacity of Human resilience to get through even the most arduous adversities.

125. Once again I offer my thanks to the Commision for hearing me out.

126. [REDACTED]

127. Email [REDACTED]

128. Mobile [REDACTED]

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

## Organisation Name

N/A

## Name

Anonymous 47

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

it needs to be less punitive and adopt a more care centered model of care.

### **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?**

not much is already working well. much more needs to be done to make the system adopt A SERVICE MINDSET than a SYSTEM MINDSET.

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

LOCAL councils need to play a role here. Local councils need to set up shopfronts wellness centres . the regimen for preventing mental health care needs to develop from the LOCAL the state the federal Government. BUt must first start at the Local level . Councils need to pay a greater role in the delivery of mental health services.

### **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.**

jobs homelessness unemployment social isolation. THE FEELING THAT NOBODY CARES ABOUT ANYTHING THAT IS OUTSIDE THEMSELVES or their immediate families. A new mindset of caring needs to be developed.

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

Unemployment is the key element. People only talking with MEMBERS OF THEIR OWN NATIONALITIES is a real problem. Move out of the Ghettos and share your existence with ALL not just your own nationality.

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

lots lots of needs . They need to be more listened to by HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS and be incorporated in their decision making processes.

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

employ less QUALIFIED STAFF with some life experience.

### **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?**

none at all . Everybody CRASHES you has a go at you. the medical profession being the worst offender.it displays very narrow thinking towards mental health issues. Only considers text book scenarios about mental illness. Must however change its attitudes.

**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?**

it needs to move away from the PUNITIVE MODEL by which it is constituted at present to a more CARE CENTERED APPROACH.

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

Move away from the punitive approach towards those experiencing mental illness.

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

the current approach is ALL ENTIRELY PUNITIVE and RESTRAINT. It needs to engage in a more blended approach of care restraint in some cases where it urgently needed a service approach .Engage in with families and carers more and incorporate some of their views into its decision making.