

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

SUB. 0002.0024.0068

[REDACTED]

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

No comments to make on this question.

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?

"From personal experience through my now deceased son [REDACTED] who suffered from Schizophrenia, he received good primary care through the [REDACTED]. He had a number of acute admissions and was discharged on a number of occasions on a Community Treatment Order when stabilised. The system broke down when he became aware that the Treatment Order lost its effectiveness once you crossed the state border. Although [REDACTED] personal were notified I was advised that they could not intervene until [REDACTED] came to their attention. [REDACTED] drove himself to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] visiting my parents while there but now not taking his medication. As he deteriorated over time, he assaulted a person (causing life threatening injuries - fractured skull). He was admitted to the [REDACTED] where he was stabilised over some months. He then went through a Court process because of the assault, but was able to be repatriated back to Victoria for ongoing management of his Schizophrenia. A person with a mental illness in one State does not become well once they cross a State Border. What is missing is a system that allows a Community Treatment Order issued in one State to be effective in another State. Had my son been brought under care in [REDACTED] prior to his much anticipated relapse through compulsory intervention by [REDACTED], I am sure the serious life threatening assault would not have occurred and our family life would not have had the disruption while my wife supported our son at the [REDACTED] over many months. I am happy to more details from our son's illness and file documents should you require further information. "

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

No comment to make on this question. Our well liked son was very stable and living independently of us in [REDACTED]. I believe he made a decision to suicide weeks before he killed himself. I am well aware to Schizophrenia statistics with the knowledge that about one third of patients with that illness suicide.

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.

No comment to make on this question.

What are the drivers behind some communities in Victoria experiencing poorer mental

health outcomes and what needs to be done to address this?

No comment to make on this question.

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

No Comment to Make on this question

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

No Comment to Make on this question

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?

No Comment to Make on this question

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?

Develop a national based process for community treatment orders. Mental illness and its management does not stop at the border

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

No Comment to Make on this question

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

Happy to be contacted to provide specific around my son's case to that others do not have to suffer the anguish that my family did. I am currently overseas and not returning to Australia until July 13th by which time the online submission period will have closed.