

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

Organisation Name

N/A

Name

Ms Tess Fitzgerald

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

The public needs to be educated about the biochemical aspects of mental illness

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?

There is not enough funding or assistance for individuals afflicted by mental illness to pursue interests

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.

Increased funding to support services

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

Poor funding in regional areas

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

As a carer I have had no practical support. Respite accommodation does not appear to exist

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

Increased funding and better pay and conditions

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?

As a carer I have experienced no opportunities

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?

"Increased funding, funding, funding to go toward individual cluster units with on site units for carers. Individuals with chronic illness are unable to care for themselves. Increased funding for

bed availability to go towards hospitals. Community treatment clinics are also underfunded and under staffed and workers are unable to meet the needs of their clients leading to burn out"

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

"Psychiatrists ,case managers and CAT workers could assist patients and carers by listening to the concerns of the career who knows the patient better than the professional "

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

Psychiatrists make unilateral decisions about discharge failing to inform careers of high needs patients of imminent discharge.