

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

Organisation Name

N/A

Name

Mr Darren Wiseman

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

Government agencies should have a policy that encourages and supports people with mental illness to apply for positions within the public sector. Having to declare that you have a mental illness is unfair and does not assist people to recover and live the best possible life they can.

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 really working. I speak from a point of view of having PTSD and Depression and having a step son who committed suicide. From my perspective, I was harmed in the workplace after 25 years with Victoria Police. I was isolated and never offered a return to work program. It took 8 months after I went sick before anyone spoke to me from Victoria Police. I had to battle with the insurer [REDACTED] and Victoria Police for the claim to be accepted, which it still hasn't been some 4 years later, however they have agreed to a claim from 2000, which sees me financially disadvantaged by over 30,000 dollars a year compared to if the last claim is accepted. Secondly the legislation for injuries in the workplace should be presumptive and the employer and/or insurance company should have to prove you do not have a mental illness. The present system sees people becoming more mentally unwell because their claims are not being accepted and they can not access the clinical care they need, until they prove they are mentally ill and it was as a result of the workplace. This can take years to occur, meanwhile they become sicker. Victoria Police and [REDACTED] Insurance are notorious for fighting mental health claims."

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

There is a mental health crisis within our police services in Victoria; Victoria Police and the AFP. They talk the talk but really do nothing to prevent 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.

"The non acceptance of work injury claims by police members claiming mental health injuries, results in suicides and further mental health damage. As I've highlighted legislation must be changed so workers can access immediate clinical care."

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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?

More government jobs for people with mental illnesses.

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?

N/A

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

N/A

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

It should be part of the Charter of Human Rights to discriminate against a person with a mental illness. Changes need to be made to legislation and offences created for discrimination against people with a mental illness.