

Royal Commission into
Victoria's Mental Health System
PO Box 12079
A'Beckett Street
MELBOURNE VIC 8006

Dear Commissioners,

Re: Submission from the What Can Be Done Steering Committee to the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System

I am providing this submission as a Churchill Fellow.

I wish to fully support the submission from the What Can Be Done Steering Committee (attached). The 27-member committee, in turn, fully supports the recommendations of my Churchill Fellowship Report entitled 'What Can Be Done? Residential Therapeutic Treatment Options for Young People Suffering Substance Abuse / Mental Illness' – February 2015 (attached).

My Fellowship Report recommends that the Children's Court of Victoria have the power to make Youth Therapeutic Orders in both the Criminal and Family (child protection) Divisions of the Court.

Whilst I am seeking that the Court ultimately have this power in the long term, I support the immediate introduction of Youth Therapeutic Orders in the Criminal Division.

I request the opportunity to appear before the Royal Commission and participate in targeted engagement.

Your sincerely

Jennifer Bowles
Magistrate
Churchill Fellow 2014