

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

SUB.0002.0028.0627

[REDACTED]

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

N/A

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?

"Organisations like ORYGEN, Headspace and Frontyard were fundamental in caring for my daughter through her years of 12 - 18 and as a parent the staff there were caring, engaged and there for us all. These organisations need to have funding kept at the level they need to operate affectively."

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

"I'm not sure what is working well as my daughter succeeded in her suicide however there needs to be more beds available to acute patients who are self harming and need to be admitted, in our case, to ORYGEN. My daughter [REDACTED] was admitted to [REDACTED] because there were no beds at ORYGEN (even though she was being treated by an ORYGEN therapist), and she was able to discharge herself after the 2nd day, with no communication to myself. 4 days later she was dead. Yes she was 18 however she was in no mindset to be classed as an adult. "

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.

N/A

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?

N/A

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?

"There needs to be access to a patient's file across all mental health institutions. My daughter was taken to [REDACTED] on the night of [REDACTED] in a heightened state claiming she wanted to die, she was assessed, and released. She was found dead in the city at 7am. My first question to the Detective who told me this was Why was she released when she had a long history of Mental Health treatment and had only been in Psych Ward 4 days earlier? You can only imagine my disbelief when informed that they had no way of knowing unless told by the patient or someone with them. THIS, RIGHT HERE, IS THE PROBLEM. "

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?

[REDACTED] Professor Pat McGorry reached out to me after [REDACTED] died and was a great comfort. He told me had been fighting for years about the problem of the Institutions not being able to access external information and that tragically, my story is all too common. "