

█:

My brother is diagnosed with Chronically mental ill, paranoid schizophrenia (auditory and visual hallucinations) from the aged of 17. He also has a personality disorder, and is prone to violence. He's non-compliant, and has 0 insight to his conditions.

When he's taking medication, he can be manageable (but is still unwell). When he's not, he can be violent, unstable and deeply unwell. He doesn't like women, and I worry about what he could do. He was violent toward my mother and father.

I have been granted power of attorney for my brother, and have assisted him in getting accommodation and manage his finances.

Currently, the mental health system is unable to ensure he's well cared for. His condition oscillates through a psychosis cycle. He will stop taking his medication, become unwell and threaten others, taken in by police, before ending up in hospital. There he would be put on a Community Order, and forced to take medication. When the order ends, he will stop taking his medication, and the cycle will restart.

Having been in the mental health system for over a decade now, through three states, he has developed an understanding of how to work the system.

In 2016 I became his power of attorney. Despite having full control of his assets and legal status, I am still excluded from important decisions about his treatment. █ mental health recently conducted a mental health tribunal into my brother. I was not allowed to even give evidence.

He's been rendered incapacitated by the Civil Court of Victoria and Now by a mental health tribunal. He was on a court order up until September 2018 last year for over a year and doing well, the tribunal said "he's doing very well we can stop the court order" and they stopped the health checks. As soon as they took him off, he stopped taking the medication. Even though it is well document and I strongly objected. In May 2019 he king hit a heath care worker and is still in █ he was just put on a new community order only 6 months.

To make matters worse, I have had health professionals laugh in my face to say "he doesn't want you around", even though I am ultimately responsible for his wellbeing. It is incredibly difficult knowing just how dangerous he could be without his medication, and to be unable to participate in his mental health treatment. People from █ have told me that he should be in jail. That would require him to really hurt some their actions seem to be will to put the community at risk to achieve this.

Our mental health system only seems to function in a mode of crisis, they don't respect patient history or take into account family testimony. There's insufficient follow up or adequate care for someone in this condition.

I am deeply concerned about what might happen if we fail to change the mental health system. Our system must do better than leaving potentially violent people on the streets or on inadequate community orders. As a society, we are not looking after mentally ill men, and it's putting our mothers, daughters and partners in danger of there life's.

While I was pregnant and unable to care for him, he spent two years on the streets. He racked up the charges, and spent time in jail.

While the system is broken, it will only work if we all work together in a cycle of heath care works, police, family, and the patient, If one stops working it all falls apart. As a result, families withdraw, the person fall through the crakes. It's been incredibly stressful and painful. My brother cannot know where I live, because he's threatened to harm my kids on numerals occasions.

The system needs to have some where The Chronically mentally ill like my brother can live, assisted living facility with a secure unit if necessary. He needs a place where people can ensure he's taking his medication, getting treatment and just eating and looked after.

Changes to the system:

- They need to read his history and include his careers. Too many times, have I had them say they have spoken to my brother who is ether unwilling or have no insight to their condition, it would be like asking Alzheimer patient what their basic information background and history was.
- All allegations must be investigated whether perceive as frivolous or not. My brother claims to have been sexually assaulted while in care, but the mental health service refused to have investigated. This is unacceptable. He crazy when it's an allegation about them but when it about the family it their green light to exclude the family, as well as harboring any actual abuse.
- The cultural attitude toward families must change. Many times, I am treated as a nuisance or part of the problem. But families are pressed upon when the system wants to opt out. The final insult of being excluded from tribunals and important decisions makes things so much harder. Double standards. This is Isolating the patient and coursing more harem to the reintegration back in to the community.
- Accommodation long term: public housing is too difficult to get into and not appropriate. For chronically ill people, people like my brother can end up trashing it or become vicomtes of others that they associate with. He needs to be in assisted living care. Somewhere that will ensure he's being fed properly, and taking his medication. And with this accommodation, there needs to be a secure unit, if violent occurs for the safety of them self's and others.
- We need to have some kind of model care facility long term. The chronically ill are either on the streets or in Jail, as we don't have anywhere for them to go. We stopped the institutions because of the abuse, we should have just addressed the abuse and that hasn't stop. We need to look at it like a health problem and not a criminal problem.
- Too much turnover. The good staff always seem to leave and there's too much turnover. Building long term relations with good staff is critical to improving the system.
- The crisis-based response needs to end. Under the current system, police, emergency department and jails are expensive options.
- Monitoring Recidivism, not how many patients they are able to get off their books.
- If you have a community order in one state it is applicable to every state in Australia
- If you are a repeat offender, have been violent and are Non-compliant, a Tribunal should be able to have community orders that go past 12 months and do so.
- More group therapy sessions for first time admissions intervention stage, conative therapy.
- Longer valuation times when a police officer has brought in a vulnerable member of the community, they think is unwell (STOP THE REVOLVING DOOR).
- Capping upper managements wages and spending, there is a lot of funding going in to mental health that is only trickling down to the people that need it.