



THEMES FOR WITNESS STATEMENTS – 2020

RELEASED 27 MAY 2020

The Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System has taken the preventative measure of cancelling its second and final round of public hearings due to coronavirus.

The important work of the Commission will continue, including through written witness statements which will start to be published online from May and will inform the Commission's work in the lead up to its final report.

The Commission values and respects the contribution that people living with mental illness, family members and carers provide. The Commission has collected witness statements from consumers, families and carers and a range of other individuals who were due to give evidence at the hearings.

The Commission has collected statements about ideas to develop a more contemporary and responsive mental health system in Victoria that also continues to address the community-wide impacts of suicide. This includes matters that are both relevant to the Terms of Reference and focus areas to effect transformational change, such as:

- The demographic and social trends that influence good mental health over the long-term, as well as opportunities to embrace advances in digital technology and service delivery.
- Opportunities to give future generations—infants, children, adolescents and young people—the greatest chance of experiencing good mental health throughout their lives.
- The negative impact of trauma on mental health, and the role of recovery-orientated treatment, care and support.
- Enabling people living with mental illness to lead a life they value, including the role of housing, employment and connected communities.
- The design, features and workforce requirements of a well-resourced community mental health model that provides early intervention and multidisciplinary treatment, care and support as well as reducing the rates of suicide.
- Opportunities to better support people living with mental illness who are also experiencing homelessness, problematic alcohol and other drug use, and who are in contact with, or at risk of contact with, the justice system.
- The optimal configuration of mental health services and other contemporary system design features, including service quality, safety and funding arrangements.
- Collaborative governance arrangements that support the prioritisation of mental health by governments and the broader community.

Witnesses also include representatives from service providers and academic institutions, as well as individuals from a broad range of fields and senior government officials. Some witnesses have been asked to provide witness statements through a panel style discussion and the Commission will publish these online in a range of formats.