

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

SUB. 0002.0028.0273

Name

Anonymous

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

"My daughter was under the [REDACTED] They misdiagnosed her with a mental illness, admitted her as a psychiatric patient and treated her terribly. They denied her to see her family, they conducted isolated nursing watching her 24/7, making her stand naked in the shower in front of them, toilet in front of them. Her condition involved constant nausea in which she was denied anti nausea medication and also denied vomit bags. This resulted in her being left in a bed of her own vomit. After fighting to get our daughter removed from the [REDACTED] mental health system we took her to Royal Melb Hospital where they treated her with respect and conducted the correct testing which diagnosed her with a serious autoimmune disease. She is now undergoing Rituximab therapy in which is proving to stop the vomiting and give her a quality of life."

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?

"[REDACTED] need to include parents and listen to parents as we know our children. We knew our daughter did not have a mental illness, and because we did not agree with their diagnosis they overruled us by involving DHS under the provision that we were not allowing our daughter to recover as we would not accept their diagnosis. This is disgraceful as they are using their powers to bully families and not listen to parents."

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

Our daughter was on a ward with very mentally ill teenagers whom had anorexia etc. She reports none of them were treated with respect or kindness. Dignity and autonomy was taken away from all of them.

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.

"By providing patient centred care, listening to patients and their families. Listening to the patients is essential in making a diagnosis. Ruling out an organic illness is essential before labeling teenagers with mental illness."

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

"homelessness, economic status, loneliness, unemployment, drug use"

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

To be listened to to be supported to be included in the care of their loved one to have a say in the

treatment plan and ways to move forward and manage.

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

more funding better qualified doctors. more staff on mental health wards

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 employment opportunities social groups to make them feel included family support groups more education in schools

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?

A more holistic approach in which children are protected. Our daughter now suffer PTSD due to the treatment she received at [REDACTED]

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

never stop parents being included in their children care.

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

Please don't let any other family experience what we have been through.