

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

SUB: 0002.0029.0112

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

My name is [REDACTED] I have 25 year background in nursing from aged care general and psychiatric. The information I want to provide and indicate the problems at a systematic level particularly within the adult acute psychiatric facilities are lengthy and many. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] To which has taken away my quality of life I have returned to nursing on several occasions since this assault in 2014 to my passion of aged care to find another area that's has drastically deteriorated in the past 10-15 years. I considered and seriously almost took my own life in 2016 feeling that the institute that I had given 16 years to made me feel and destroyed my confidence dignity and trust in the health care system overall. An example of media coverage of murders highlighting the perpetrators have a schizophrenia diagnosis as these are the people requiring extensive inpatient treatment but it seems to be a revolving door for particularly Ice addicts for a bed 3 meals a day meet and greets making new dealers. Drug use and no accountability by management to address the increase within the hospital environment. Media again making reference to the footballer Majak Daw who fell from the Bolty bridge stop sugar coating it as it was a serious suicide attempt this only gives more fuel to the stigma. Along with death with no suspicious circumstances. I have so much more to add but just wanted to get this in before the deadline and am happy to discuss further and add a lot more. One thing being in the floor there is not enough security and mental health is too heavy it needs to be better managed with qualified staff not what's happening at the moment unqualified casuals and lack of psychologists and social workers. Thanks for your time

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?

Mental health needs to be taken back to basics the problem is nothing that is being done at the moment is working statistically that's a fact.

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

Early intervention in primary schools involving children and parents

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.

Regional and rural areas have a higher incidence of dual diagnosis with no real adequate treatment facilities for long term chronic stays. The catchment areas are too big

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?

N/A

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?

Yes but I only after speaking to a representative on the phone yesterday decided that I would contribute. So sorry this has been quite brief