

Supporting Document

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My son is now 29. He lived at home until recently and is now residing in a nearby caravan park. Our lives have been difficult over the last couple of years.

It really all went downhill once he started using ice. It led to a significant deterioration in his mental health, and he has suffered serious psychotic episodes.

Just a few years ago, he had \$30,000 in the bank. Now, he's got nothing, faces severe mental illness, and struggles to maintain relationships. He can be violent, aggressive and he's caused significant damage to my home.

Currently, he's doing well. He recently started receiving medication in an injection form once a month, and he seems to be doing ok.

However, getting to this point has been a real struggle, as it has been extremely difficult to get him long term treatment/rehabilitation for addiction, to deal with the episodes of psychosis, or develop long term plans to address his mental health.

In terms of the long term challenges, we have been unable to find adequate drug rehabilitation or any for that matter that will take people other than voluntarily.

The main course of action for we as parents was to call police and put place an IVO/s that have been upgraded or downgraded in time.

Whenever the police were involved in taking my son away, I had been called by organizations (4 in total) that were offering help to the victim who in this case was myself.

As I noted to them, I was not the one that needed help it was my son that did and asked if they could assist with rehab for him then they would be assisting the victim. They all said they couldn't do this and were only set up to assist the victims.

They could not offer any help and that was the end of any discussion other than they reinforced that they could assist me.

This is a major failure of the system to address current and future rehabilitation for people who are not able to clearly volunteer for such services.

The mental health system has let him, and I down in a couple of instances and without us pushing to get some action then he could have ended up on the streets.

When he had a psychotic episode, we would also face great difficulties. It would involve having to call the police and finally having him admitted into ██████ ward at ██████. In one instance after being admitted to ██████ at around 5.30AM, he was discharged and arrived at home at 7.30AM without any notification from the hospital. We were then forced to pick up the pieces.

The Police had been called on numerous occasions and have been extremely helpful and caring.. We have had IVO's put in place to try and minimize any impact to our property and ourselves. We had been increasingly scared of what may happen at home. Advice from the mental Health people at ██████████ St had been that he could increase his level of violence and it could be directed more to ourselves. The staff at ██████████ St have also been great and

very supportive however until there was a clear link made between [REDACTED] and themselves with regards to treatment there had been some failings.

After my son had been admitted to [REDACTED] for a longer period and was doing well under his medication regime, we met with the [REDACTED] ward staff who also were helpful but we had to push our case in terms of communication and treatment.

He was released with medication but within 2 days refused to take it and fell back to his previous condition quickly.

He was released into the police to upgrade his IVO to stay away from our home but had no case manager organized for him by the hospital. The police after interviewing him let him go on the basis he said he had somewhere to stay but at 5.30AM the following morning we got a call he was without a place to stay and could he come home.

We then took the initiative after finding accommodation away from home as the updated IVO required and contacted the mental health triage services in LRH to see what could be done about getting him to take a better medication regime such as an injection.

We have pushed and pushed to get treatment, but it was always very difficult. We have had to bear a great burden.

After his recent attendance at [REDACTED] ward we were advised that he had undertaken a urine test and we were eventually told that he had not taken any drugs, particularly ice for some weeks (the trace of ice remains for some time). This was wonderful information they provided as by knowing this it allows us to understand his current wellbeing and provides an important basis for building trust.

My wife especially has been worn down, and it has huge impacts on your work.

What's needed?

Dedicated drug rehabilitation services, particularly for those who aren't mentally well enough to voluntarily admit themselves. Involuntary admission is critical, since we have lost the institutions, parents are required to carry the burden. - Better communication with families and friends of people who suffer mental illness issues. We need to be seen as a critical part of the care team. - Better housing and accommodation for those that are not able to stay at a family home - Mental health team who can be assigned, so they can develop a trusting relationship and support people through the system, follow up after episodes and keep people away from police (who have far more important things to do) and emergency departments.