

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

Organisation Name

N/A

Name

Dr Alexander Olausen

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

Non specific. Stopping saying there is a stigma

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?

More staff. I work in Emergency. There is only an oncall psych service. The number we call from ED is the same as all patients call. The availability is too poor. Long delays and suboptimal initial management can be improved by the presence of psych staff in ED.

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

No comment

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.

"Hard for people to experience good mental health, when their complex problem is tackled with a simple medication suggestion."

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

"Socio Economic Services available Generational To address this, more services, more focus on things associated with MH (eg drug and alcohol)"

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

The needs are huge. 24 hour hotline advice - that doesn't automatically divert to 000 is required.

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

"MH workers like their job. If they get the resources, eg beds, to keep people longer, to admit the patients that are on the boarder, they would be pleased to see the patients improvements"

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?

Not sure

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?

Access to beds

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?

N/A