

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

Organisation Name

N/A

Name

Rev Bruce Charles

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

"To continue to encourage all groups and organisations et cetera, within the community to reflect upon how their culture might impact on people with mental illness issues. Important examples are:

* Religious organisations within our society are one of the prime offenders in this respect. As in the recent debate over Israel Falou, the support for religious freedom should not be absolute and religions should be accountable for what they claim as truth and especially for the social consequences of their faith. The teaching of many religious organisations that some people go to hell forever, has been very damaging for all cultures and civilisations and is, at least a significant sub-conscious contributor to mental health issues in our society today. In our culture, it was predominantly, a Christian teaching; but in the current global context, we are more aware that other religious organisations, faith traditions, such as Islam, have the same teaching. In Christianity, although the tradition has been otherwise, it is not a sustainable doctrine. It is one of the most abominable doctrines known to humankind and totally contrary to Christian teaching that God is love. The teaching is abusive to God and our humanity, and in my experience, as an Anglican priest, very damaging within our society. Although a person might not have religious beliefs, they can still be affected, detrimentally, to some extent by the teachings of various religious organisations within the society. These organisations need to be more accountable. *

The current federal government's mantra: reward for effort, encouraging aspiration, earn more and keep more of what you earn. These values strongly discriminate against people, who because of mental health issues and other conditions, cannot succeed in this value system. *

The revision of professional standards within the mental health organisations and professions, whereby people have their diagnosis discussed with them and it is a breach of professional ethics, to report a diagnosis to another professional, without having discussed the diagnosis with the patient. Similarly, the effect or potential effect of any diagnosis on a person where the diagnosis is seen as primarily negative yet the diagnosed condition can also have positive life outcomes. For example, obsessive-compulsive disorder. It can lead to mental health issues and a breakdown of mental health, but it also can be the basis for a very positive life. *

A review of the use of mental health assessments, in adversarial processes, such as in family law and [REDACTED] where mental health is often treated as a stigma and used against the party with it. "

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?

N/A

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

N/A

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.

N/A

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?

N/A