

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

SUB. 0002.0016.0001

Name

[REDACTED]

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

"A friend self admitted into [REDACTED] to get assistance for his recently diagnosed Bi-polar, the meds his psychologist had him on made him aggressive and edgy and he wanted to go into their programme to re evaluate meds and help him get balance of meds right. This male is 45 no previous police history, however on these new meds had 2 incidences of threatening behaviour and assault in a short time (1 month of meds) was admitted to hosp as arranged, did not see a Dr for 23 hours became agitated and annoyed at lack of any "care factor" was not given anything to help calm, as Dr hadn't seen him as yet- Catch 22. Became agitated and "self released" when he was told Dr was still 1 hour away. Left Hospital...went home for 4-5 days "went off Meds on own at home with no medical supervision" was suicidal, aggressive, self abusive, dangerous. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] DID NOT follow up on patient, even though he had committed himself, in fact when complained to had the view of "NO CARE NO RESPONSIBILITY' as their policy is that the Dr had 24 hours in which to see the patient, and that the patient wouldn't wait to see the DR. [REDACTED] had the nerve to state that the patient would have to be given explicit instructions on the fact that "aggressive behaviours" and "agitated" attitudes would not be tolerated! ALMOST A LAUGHABLE SAD LAUGHABLE STATEMENT, AS THEY HAD GIVEN NOTHING TO ASSIST THIS PATIENT FOR 23 HOURS.....THIS PATIENT WAS PAYING ON HIS HIGHEST PRIVATE COVERAGE, AND RECEIVING NO CARE WHATSOEVER!!!!!! The Psychiatrist he was seeing at [REDACTED] who had prescribed the "meds that exacerbated his condition" DID NOT FOLLOW HIM UP WITH ONE PHONE CALL- NOT ONCE FOR WEEKS AFTER HIS PATIENT HAD SELF LEFT THE HOSPITAL- TOTALLY TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE! SO WE HAVE PRIVATE DR & PRIVATE HOSPITAL WHO DON'T GIVE A DAM AS TO WHAT HAPPENS TO THIS PATIENT-WHAT HIS OUTCOME IS OR WHAT HIS AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOURS ON THIS DRUG REAP!!!! UNTIL A COMPLAINT WAS MADE TO HOSP AND THE DR'S OFFICE NO FOLLOWUP CALL WAS RECEIVED..... is this the care that is "good enough for your Father/Son/Brother/sister/ mother/loved one????????????? NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO no its NOT- there is no accountability from them in their FAILURE to this patient. at this time this patient still had the chance of regaining his family, his job, and his life- since this incident this patient has become HOMELESS, JOBLESS, lost his marriage & Family. He has lost respect for medical profession and refuses now to seek further help. SO FROM BEING/WANTING/SEEKING AND THINKING HE HAD GAINED HELP.....TO HOMELESS, LOST FAMILY, LOST JOB, REFUSING ANY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE -NOT TO MENTION HAVING A WARRANT OUT ON HIM FOR NOT ATTENDING COURT- whilst he was self detoxing off that Dr prescribed medication that nearly killed him. PLEASE IM BEGGING YOU PLEASE STOP THIS HAPPENING TO OTHER PEOPLES LOVED ONES. "

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?

BETTER DOCTOR TRAINING AND MORE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SO CALLED SPECIALISTS.

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

NOT SURE YOU ARE WORKING WELL AGAINST THIS.

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.

DOCTORS WHO ONLY SEE \$ AND NOT THE VALUE OF THEIR PATIENT AS A PERSON.

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

"MORE MEDICAL STAFF THAT ACTUALLY CARE ABOUT THE OUTCOMES OF THE PEOPLE THEY ARE TREATING. MORE HOSPITAL BEDS FOR PEOPLE THAT CANT ACCESS PRIVATE COVER, ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PRIVATE HOSPITALS THE TOUT THEMSELVES AS ""MENTAL HEALTH"" FACILITIES AND ACT LIKE ACCOUNTING FIRMS COUNTING THEIR \$ AND NOT THEIR OUTCOMES."

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

POLICE CARE- DOCTOR CARE HOSPITAL SOCIAL WORKER

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

"THATS WHAT YOUR TASK FORCE HAS TO WORK OUT, PERSONALLY I THINK THAT ALL THE STAFF NEED TO BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR HOW THEY FOLLOW UP ON ALL CLIENTS "

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?

AGAIN IM NOT QUALIFIED BUT I WOULD TRY TO HOSPITALISE ALL WHO ARE WILLING AND TRY TO GET THEIR MEDS AND TREATMENT BALANCED IN A CONTROLLED ENVIROMENT. ASSISTANCE FOR JOB OPPORTUNITIES AFTER THAT. FAMILY CHECK UPS IN THE HOME TO SEE HOW ALL THE FAMILY IS COPING. EXTRA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IF MENTAL HEALTH IS HINDERING THE FAMILIES FINANCES DUE TO PARENT/PARENTS NOT WORKING

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 ACCOUNTABILITY OUTCOMES FAMILY BACKING COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

AGAIN THATS A MOVE FOR THE COMMISSION TO DECIDE BUT IF YOU DONT MAKE CHANGES TO ACCESS make it EASY FOR PEOPLE TO GAIN HELP then you may as well have

not had the Royal Commission

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

"my total disappointment at Drs. I have lost 3 friends (almost this one above as well) due to suicide, how are we an intelligent and well off community allowing the horror of this to permeate our lives. the ripple effect of the families- children left behind- the scars on their lives their minds their outcomes cannot just be swept under the mat and lost within statistics. ""a society is only as good as the manner it treats those who are unable to care for themselves!!!" sadly we are failing- regards "