

Lives will be saved. The Mental Health Royal Commission's final report offers real hope for Victoria's rural and regional communities.

We warmly welcome the Mental Health Royal Commission's final report and its strong focus and investment in Victoria's underserved communities including Melbourne's outer growth corridors and regional and rural communities across the State.

The changes outlined in the final report are vast, sweeping, incredibly exciting and mark a bold new vision for the future provision of mental health services in Victoria. Lives will be saved. Quite simply put, this is the most significant development in mental health since de-institutionalisation in the 1990s, and is something that is urgently needed.

We are very pleased to see a focus on removing the barriers Victorians face when trying to get help and emphasis on making services available in the community, particularly in growth corridors of Melbourne and into regional Victoria.

"Currently it's very hard for families, carers and consumers to get the supports they need, in their community when they most need them. It's pleasing to see a service system that will be designed at a local, area based and state-wide levels, where people can get the help and support when they need it most in the communities where they live" said CEO Karenza Louis-Smith.

The final reports recommendations include additional resources to enable mental health and wellbeing services operating in rural and regional Victoria to deliver services to small or geographically isolated rural communities. New digital service delivery initiatives will also be rolled out in rural and regional areas that meet the needs of local communities.

"We would really want to see the growth corridors on Melbourne's fringe be amongst the first to have some of these innovations and changes take place" added Karenza Louis-Smith.

Quotes attributable to Donna, person with lived experience, carer and peer support worker:

"Being willing to sacrifice almost an entire day to get support from another service is also incredibly time consuming and exhausting."

"I am hoping that support services are going to become accessible to all. Access to the right support before someone's health requires drastic intervention will not only save lives but improve the quality of the one in five who are affected."

Quotes attributable to Lauren, person with lived experience:

"Services are just hard to find, it's hard to get in contact. I know people that are out there, that are struggling and can't get access to mental health support services, and I know how much it can help, and not seeing that available to them can be distressing."

For further information:

Media / news / interviews

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About ermha365

ermha365 is a lifeline for people who are challenged with complex mental health and disability issues. Many have experienced stigma and discrimination, and been ostracised or excluded from the simple things that most of us take for granted. Some have been unfairly warehoused in prison or in hospital. We believe in the potential of everyone. Our work is based around supporting people to improve their quality of life and reach their personal potential. We never give up, and we never give in, as we provide care and support for people with complex needs to thrive as part of the community.