

Media Release

The Hon Martin Foley MP
Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Equality
Minister for Creative Industries



**DELIVERING
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

Wednesday, 17 April 2019

GIVING VICTORIANS A VOICE AT THE MENTAL HEALTH ROYAL COMMISSION

Victorians will have a chance to share their lived experiences and be a part of a once-in-a-generation reform of our mental health system.

The landmark Royal Commission into Mental Health took a major step forward today, unveiling an online portal for all Victorians to share their experiences and tell the Commissioners what matters to them.

Too often, our mental health system fails people. The Royal Commission will help us understand the shortcomings in the current system and provide practical recommendations so Victorians can get the services they need.

The new Royal Commission portal – available from today – allows people to share their views through a written submission, an audio submission or a video recording. Submissions can be short, or more formal, longer pieces.

The Mental Health Royal Commission has already held community consultation sessions in Whittlesea, Pakenham, Warrnambool, Hamilton and Geelong, and will hold many more over the coming weeks.

The Andrews Labor Government appointed public policy expert Penny Armytage as Chair of the Royal Commission. Ms Armytage is joined by Associate Professor Alex Cockram, Professor Allan Fels AO and Professor Bernadette McSherry.

The Labor Government will accept the Royal Commission's recommendations.

To access the portal or stay up to date with the Royal Commission's activities, visit rcvmhs.vic.gov.au.

If you or someone you know is in crisis or requires support, call Lifeline on 13 11 14 or BeyondBlue on 1300 224 636

Quotes attributable to Minister for Mental Health Martin Foley

"This is a rare opportunity for people who have lived through their own mental health experiences to share their stories and help us create a new system that gives Victorians the help and support that they deserve."

"Submissions can be long and detailed, or simply just an account of their personal experiences. Each and every one will help shape the Royal Commission into Mental Health."

"One in five Victorians will experience mental illness this year, and too many of those will lose their lives to suicide. We need a new approach to mental health, and a Royal Commission will help us deliver a new system."