

Response to Labor promise of
Royal Commission into Mental Health
October 25th 2018



Eating Disorders Victoria (EDV) welcome Daniel Andrew's commitment to a Royal Commission into Mental Health if the Labor Party is re-elected in November.

EDV CEO Jennifer Beveridge said the announcement is a good news for the hundreds of thousands of Victorians affected by mental illness.

"Anyone who has any experience of trying to navigate the mental health system knows there's significant room for improvement."

With 230,000 Victorians currently experiencing an eating disorder, and with anorexia nervosa having the highest mortality rate of any mental illness, EDV are looking forward to eating disorders being an important aspect of the commission.

"When it comes to eating disorders, the navigation between the health system and the mental health system becomes even more complicated.

We know from our work that too many Victorians aren't able to find or access the appropriate support services they need in order to make a full recovery."

Ms Beveridge notes that EDV have already identified gaps in the system and are working with hospitals to provide much needed services.

"Our Peer Mentoring Program was established because of the need for a step down support service for individuals leaving hospital. We saw that the relapse rate for individuals leaving hospital was too high, and have established a program that has proven to help reduce the rates of readmission. Despite this success, we don't have a funding commitment for the program to continue beyond next year.

We hope that the Royal Commission will highlight the need for government to support innovative initiatives such as the Peer Mentoring Program and work collaboratively with organisations to ensure holistic, long term, sustainable outcomes for individuals."

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