



Dear MP

29 February 2024

Rec 29 Mental Health Royal Commission

As the third anniversary of the final report of the Mental Health Royal Commission's final report draws near (2 March 2024), we seek to draw your attention to a critical recommendation that is overdue in its implementation.

Recommendation 29 called for the establishment of a non-government agency led by people with lived experience of mental illness or psychological distress. Intended to be at the heart of systems transformation, it has a distinctive remit to drive systems change by inspiring new and different consumer-led approaches to wellbeing and recovery; developing the consumer-led sector; nurturing and connecting consumer leaders; and partnering to lift the bar on lived experience involvement.

For consumers, it will be a place of pride, belonging and hope. A safe and respectful home for bringing our ideas for better mental health and wellbeing support to life and where we can be supported to lead real change.

Victoria's mental health system was not built on foundations of lived experience leadership. The Royal Commission envisaged the consumer-led agency would be a pillar in the foundations of the *new* system and provided for it to be set *up by the end of 2022*. It intended for lived-experienced innovation and leadership to be part of the fabric of future services.

Rather than being sidelined while other foundational components of the mental health system are being built, this core infrastructure for consumer-lived experience needs to be present and active in shaping change.

Late last year 15 of Victoria's most influential community sector organisations [wrote to the Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan, Victorian Treasurer Tim Pallas and Victorian Minister for Mental Health Ingrid Stitt](#) seeking a clear timeline for the establishment of the Consumer Leadership Agency and warning its continued absence poses a real risk to reform directions. Some voices from our community about the importance of Recommendation 29 are overpage.

We seek your support in contacting the Premier and Treasurer about the need for action on this Royal Commission recommendation. Your support will be critical to ensuring the missing piece at the heart of Victoria's mental health system reform is established in the 2024 Victorian Budget. Please contact Nicole Rees on 0407 337 940 or nicole@policyfox.com.au if you have any questions or would like a briefing from VMIAC and SHARC on this issue.

Yours sincerely

(signed)

Craig Wallace
CEO, Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council

(signed)

Clare Davies
CEO, Self Help Addiction Resource Centre