

Media Release

VMIAC Response to the Victorian Budget

2022–2023 Budget : 06.05.2022



The Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council CEO Craig Wallace has come forward to announce the budget is a mixed bag for consumers.

He said “There has obviously been a significant commitment to expand the clinical workforce – however we do need to ensure these staff are trained in better models of practice. This means working well and in partnership with consumers and being more person centred and tapping into training models designed and delivered by LE trainers.”

In regard to the workforce VMIAC would also like to see investments allocated to the Lived Experience sector into future budget allocations attached to cornerstone projects.

Craig said, “What we have seen so far is establishment work by the Royal Commission to support the development of those already in the consumer workforce and an integration of these roles. Moving forward what is required are ongoing funds that demonstrates the view of these workers being part of a Lived Experience sector and integrate this sector accordingly into the reform landscape.”

He continued, “Overall, the budget mental health spends lean to clinical and medical models, and covers the beds and bricks promised in the Royal Commission report. However, VMIAC members have said they want more diverse support options.”

“We can’t pin every hope on a clinical oriented mental health portfolio. We are also awaiting details on announcements attached to other portfolios to determine the breadth of what this budget covers for consumers who seek and need supports beyond the medical models.”

VMIAC, in principle welcome initiatives for sexual assault victims, specialised therapeutic support for children and young people, and women’s health services funding.

“Consumers have told us they have found recovery in increased personal safety, housing security, and employment - these are real determinants of mental health. Furthermore, we don’t want to see mental health supports that pathologise these traumas or that create a culture of ‘curing’ natural human responses to difficult circumstances,”

- Craig Wallace, VMIAC CEO