

**It's time
for Rec 29**



Recommendation 29: The crucial missing piece in mental health reforms

Recommendation 29 of the Royal Commission called for the establishment of a non-government agency led by people with lived experience of mental illness or psychological distress to form part of the new system foundations. We call it Our Agency. It was meant to be set up by the end of 2022, but nearly three years have passed since the Royal Commission's report and there is no clear plan or timeline for this to occur.

A place of pride to develop new approaches and nurture consumer leadership

Rec 29 is a place of pride and belonging. It will be a safe and respectful home for bringing our ideas for better mental health and wellbeing supports to life. Where we can use our lived experience and neurodiversity to lead and inspire real change across the mental health and AOD system.

Rec 29 is to be our mad pride place for innovation, celebration and leadership. Our centre for amazingness and reimagining. Our true north. A beacon for hope that guides systems change.

- A hub for consumer-led innovation that tests the new and expands the possible
- A centre for fostering the development of consumer-led organisations and programs
- A place for nurturing, developing and connecting consumer leaders and workers across Victoria
- Partnerships to lift the bar on lived experience leadership and involvement in the mental health and AOD systems

A pillar in the foundations of a new and different mental health system

"...we don't want to fill in the potholes, we want a new road"

The mental health system was never built on foundations of lived experience leadership. We're playing catch up. Rec 29 will help build a new way for mental health supports and recovery.

As consumers we need Rec 29, but so does the broader system. Our Agency will help to educate others about new approaches that are based on our expertise, our human rights and our history of working with one another. It will push the envelope in mental health reform.

Rec 29 will help realise the Royal Commission's vision of:

- Lived experience led organisations and services as a genuine and thriving part of the service mix
- Lived experience leaders in key, substantive roles and equipped to drive systems change
- Services being created in deep partnership with lived experience
- Genuine partnerships with lived experience organisations and expertise across all parts of the system

Sidelining the key infrastructure for consumer-lived experience risks undermining reforms

Every day delayed risks our chance at a better future. Our Agency is supposed to be up and running now, building and shaping the foundations of a new mental health system.

Instead, major investments are being made and other foundational components of the mental health system are being built while the core infrastructure for consumer-lived experience is being sidelined.

Victoria's leading peak bodies and community mental health and AOD services have issued a collective warning: further delays in establishing the consumer agency will harm mental health reform and undermine efforts to give Victorians the mental health, wellbeing and recovery supports they need. The Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing named this as a matter of public concern.

- Without an effective consumer-led change agency there will be no real systems transformation.
- Without Rec 29 we risk more of the same or just tinkering around the edges.
- Delay in implementing Rec 29 is moving us from having hope to losing hope.

Sign the Community Letter

You can show your support for funding recommendation 29 by signing our community letter here:

<https://ouragency.good.do>

More information and resources

Get more information and find resources to help you share the campaign with your networks on the VMIAC website below:

www.vmiac.org.au/fundouragency

