

15 December 2023

Ms Ingrid Stitt MP  
Minister for Mental Health  
Minister for Ageing  
Minister for Multicultural Affairs  
GPO Box 4057  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

**Your ref:** BAC-BR-22385

Dear Minister,

**Establishment of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission**

Thank you for providing the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission (MHWC) with an overview of your strategic priorities to enable alignment of the activities of the MHWC with the Department of Health (DH). We acknowledge the role that the MHWC has in working alongside the DH and other entities to contribute to the strategic priorities you have outlined as:

- 1. Transforming Victoria's mental health and wellbeing system*
- 2. Supporting the accountability and improvement of mental health and wellbeing services*
- 3. Enhancing communication and engagement with the sector and community.*

The MHWC commenced operation on 1 September 2023. It is an independent statutory body that continues the work of the Mental Health Complaints Commissioner to deliver outcomes for people making a complaint about the publicly funded mental health system in Victoria, while developing our new functions to support and drive transformation. We will promote an honest and accountable mental health and wellbeing system, hold government to account for the delivery of the recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System, and work to ensure the system supports the health and wellbeing of consumers, families, carers and the associated workforce.

The MHWC has set its strategic direction for our establishment and looks forward to working with consumers, carers, service providers and government to develop and deliver our broader strategic plan beyond our establishment. The key deliverables that we have identified for our first year of operation include:

- A **Lived Experience Plan** that sets out how the MHWC will elevate lived experience leadership and participation.
- A **Monitoring and Reporting Plan** that describes how the MHWC will monitor and report on the mental health and wellbeing system's performance, safety and quality, and the government's implementation of Royal Commission recommendations
- A **Stakeholder Engagement Plan** that supports the MHWC's activities including the development of other plans

- An **Annual Plan** that describes the MHWC's program of work including potential inquiries and systemic reviews
- An **Annual Report** that includes the information required under the *Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022 (Vic)*.


The Commission is currently finalising its memorandum of understanding (MOU) for shared services with the DH and will prioritise the development of other protocols, MOUs and information sharing agreements as required.

The Commission looks forward to working with consumers, carers, service providers, statutory entities, government and other stakeholders to ensure that the objectives of the *Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022 (Vic)* with respect to the Commission are realised.

Yours sincerely,



**Treasure Jennings**  
**Chair Commissioner**



**Annabel Brebner**  
**Commissioner**



**Jacqueline Gibson**  
**Commissioner, Carers**



**Maggie Toko**  
**Commissioner, Consumers**

Cc: Katherine Whetton, Deputy Secretary, Mental Health and Wellbeing Division, DH