

Progress on the Royal Commission recommendations

The final report of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System was tabled in a special sitting of the Victorian Parliament on 2 March 2021.

The final report included 65 recommendations in addition to the nine interim report recommendations. The recommendations set out a 10-year vision for a future mental health system where people can access treatment close to their homes and in their communities.

The Victorian government committed to implementing all recommendations.

Our role

The Commission is charged with monitoring and reporting on the progress of implementing the recommendations made by the Royal Commission.

As outlined in the Commission's Monitoring and Reporting Plan, our role includes:

- Independent oversight of the implementation of the Royal Commission recommendations.
- to identify concerns with implementation progress and approach to alert government, the sector, and the community to any emerging risks and problems.
- to elevate the status of mental health across government, to ensure the recommendations remain a priority.

Our approach

The Commission remains committed to understanding progress towards achieving the outcomes of the recommendations.

Our initial approach is focused on understanding government's approach to date, including prioritisation, implementation planning, and timelines.

While we understand that implementation may be impacted by many factors, and changing circumstances may necessitate

changes in how the recommendations are implemented, what we seek to understand is whether any changes are ultimately in pursuit of the objectives and outcomes set out by the Royal Commission.

We are currently in a dialogue with government to better understand progress on the recommendations. The Department of Health has provided a summary of recommendation progress as at 30 June, which updates a previous update provided to the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee (PAEC) on 31 May, 2024.

The summary includes the implementation progress status of each of the recommendations, as well as the implementation completion date as outlined by the Royal Commission. We note that government has indicated it has reviewed and recast the implementation of the reform program through its Phase 2 Reform Plan, which is set to be released in late 2024. As a result, the Commission understands that both the acquittal approach and the associated timeframes for the Royal Commission recommendations will be updated throughout the course of 2024-25.

The Commission has committed, through its Monitoring and Reporting Plan, to an independent program of consultative work to validate the implementation of recommendations and identify key issues. This will help to inform the Commission's approach to reporting progress against the recommendations in future years.

Through 2023-24, the Commission has also been made aware of community concerns around the timing and funding for recommendations and put questions to the Victorian government about the future of mental health reforms. We look forward to the release of the Phase 2 Reform Plan, and to being informed of how government will seek to address those issues through that plan.

Figure 23: Royal Commission recommendation progress and original timelines outlined by the Royal Commission on Victoria’s Mental Health System as 30 June 2024

Source: Victorian Department of Health

Rec	Title	Implementation to be completed by (as set by Royal Commission)	Implementation progress
1	Supporting good mental health and wellbeing	1.1 End 2022 1.2-1.4 End 2031	In progress
2	Governance arrangements for promoting good mental health and preventing mental illness	End 2022	In progress
3	Establishing a responsive and integrated mental health and wellbeing system	3.1 & 3.2a End 2026 3.2b. & 3.2c End 2022 3.2d. End 2026 3.3 End 2022 3.4 & 3.5 End 2024	In progress
4	Towards integrated regional governance	4.1 Mid 2021 4.2 End 2023 4.3 End 2026 4.4 End 2023 4.5 End 2022	In progress
5	Core functions of community mental health and wellbeing services	End 2026	In progress
6	Helping people find and access treatment, care and support	6.1 & 6.2 End 2026 6.3-6.5 End 2022	In progress
7	Identifying needs and providing initial support in mental health and wellbeing services	End 2026	In progress
8	Responding to mental health crises	End 2024 8.3.c End 2022	In progress
9	Developing ‘safe spaces’ and crisis respite facilities	End 2026	In progress
10	Supporting responses from emergency services to mental health crises	10.1 End 2024 10.2 End 2022 10.3 End 2024	In progress

Rec	Title	Implementation to be completed by (as set by Royal Commission)	Implementation progress
11	New models of care for bed based services	11.1 End 2026 11.2 End 2022 11.3 End 2026 11.4 End 2031	In progress
12	Developing new bed-based rehabilitation services	12.1 & 12.2 End 2026 12.3 End 2031	To be commenced
13	Addressing gender-based violence in mental health facilities	13.1 End 2031 13.2 Mid 2022 13.3 End 2026 13.4 End 2031	In progress
14	Supporting mental health consultation liaison services	End 2024	In progress
15	Supporting good mental health and wellbeing in local communities	15.1 & 15.2 End 2024 15.3 End 2026 15.4 End 2022	In progress
16	Establishing mentally healthy workplaces	16.1 End 2022 16.2 End 2023	In progress
17	Supporting social and emotional wellbeing in schools	17.1 End 2031 17.2 End 2022 17.3 End 2031	In progress
18	Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of prospective and new parents	18.1 End 2026 18.2 End 2022	In progress
19	Supporting infant, child and family mental health and wellbeing	19.1-19.4 End 2022 19.5 End 2026	In progress
20	Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of young people	20.1 End 2022 20.2 End 2024 20.3 End 2026 20.4 End 2022	In progress

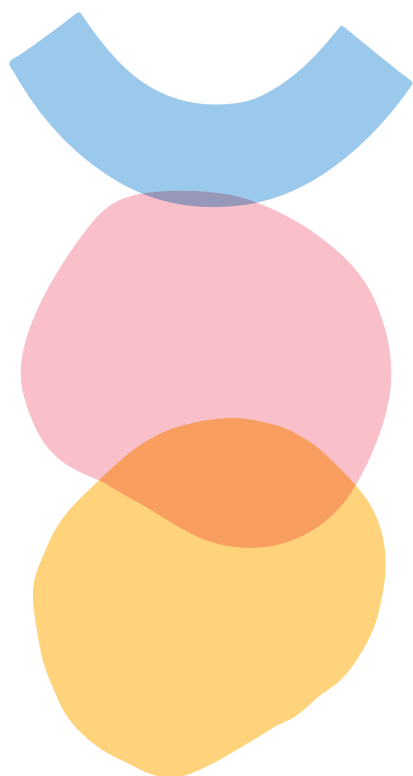
Rec	Title	Implementation to be completed by (as set by Royal Commission)	Implementation progress
21	Redesigning bed-based services for young people	21.1 & 21.2 End 2026 21.3 End 2022	In progress
22	Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of older Victorians	22.1 End 2022 22.2 & 22.3 End 2024	To be commenced
23	Establishing a new Statewide Trauma Service	End 2022	In progress
24	A new approach to addressing trauma	End 2026	In progress
25	Supported housing for adults and young people living with mental illness	25.1 End 2031 25.2 End 2022 25.3 End 2024 25.4 End 2026 25.5 End 2022 25.6 End 2031	In progress
26	Governance arrangements for suicide prevention and response efforts	26.1 End 2022 26.2 End 2031	In progress
27	Facilitating suicide prevention and response initiatives	27.1 & 27.2 End 2024 27.3 End 2022	In progress
28	Developing system-wide roles for the full and effective participation of people with lived experience of mental illness or psychological distress	End 2031	In progress
29	A new agency led by people with lived experience of mental illness or psychological distress	End 2024	In progress
30	Developing system wide involvement of family members and carers	End 2031	In progress
31	Supporting families, carers and supporters	31.1 & 31.2 End 2022 31.3 End 2024	In progress
32	Supporting young carers	End 2022	In progress
33	Supporting Aboriginal social and emotional wellbeing	33.1-33.3 End 2022 33.4 End 2024	In progress

Rec	Title	Implementation to be completed by (as set by Royal Commission)	Implementation progress
34	Working in partnership with and improving accessibility for diverse communities	34.1 End 2031 34.2 End 2022 34.3 End 2031 34.4 End 2021 34.5 End 2024	In progress
35	Improving outcomes for people living with mental illness and substance use or addiction	End 2022	In progress
36	A new statewide service for people living with mental illness and substance use or addiction	36.1 End 2024 36.2 End 2026 36.3 End 2022	In progress
37	Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of people in contact with, or at risk of coming into contact with, the criminal and youth justice systems	37.1 End 2026 37.2 & 37.3 End 2022 37.4 End 2024	In progress
38	Providing safe and appropriate mental health treatment, care and support at Thomas Embling Hospital	38.1 End 2026 38.2 End 2031	In progress
39	Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of people in rural and regional Victoria	39.1.a. End 2026 39.1.b. End 2022	In progress
40	Providing incentives for the mental health and wellbeing workforce in rural and regional areas	End 2031	In progress
41	Addressing stigma and discrimination	41.1 End 2031 41.2 End 2024 41.3 End 2031 41.4 End 2031	In progress
42	A new Mental Health and Wellbeing Act	Mid 2022	Completed
43	Future review of mental health laws	End 2031	To be commenced
44	A new Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission	44.1 & 44.2 Mid 2022 44.3 End 2031	In progress

Rec	Title	Implementation to be completed by (as set by Royal Commission)	Implementation progress
45	Effective leadership of and accountability for the mental health and wellbeing system	45.1 Mid 2022 45.2 End 2031 45.3 Mid 2021 45.4 End 2031	Completed
46	Facilitating government wide efforts	Mid 2022	Completed
47	Planning the new mental health and wellbeing system	47.1 End 2022 47.2 End 2023 47.3 End 2031 47.4 End 2026	In progress
48	Selecting providers and resourcing services	48.1 & 48.2 End 2031 48.3 End 2022	In progress
49	Monitoring and improving mental health and wellbeing service provision	End 2022	In progress
50	Encouraging national partnerships	End 2022	Completed
51	Commissioning for integration	End 2031	To be commenced
52	Improving the quality and safety of mental health and wellbeing services	52.1 End 2021 52.2 End 2031	In progress
53	Strong oversight of the quality and safety of mental health and wellbeing services	End 2031	Completed
54	Towards the elimination of seclusion and restraint	54.1 End 2031 54.2 End 2022 54.3 & 54.4 End 2031	In progress
55	Ensuring compulsory treatment is only used as a last resort	55.1 End 2031 55.2 End 2022 55.3 & 55.4 End 2031	In progress
56	Supporting consumers to exercise their rights	56.1 End 2031 56.2 End 2022 56.3 End 2024 56.4 End 2031	In progress

Rec	Title	Implementation to be completed by (as set by Royal Commission)	Implementation progress
57	Workforce strategy, planning and structural reform	57.1 End 2031 57.2 End 2023 57.3 End 2021	In progress
58	Workforce capabilities and professional development	58.1 End 2021 58.2 & 58.3 End 2022 58.4 End 2031	In progress
59	Workforce safety and wellbeing	59.1 End 2021 59.2 End 2026 59.3 End 2021	In progress
60	Building a contemporary system through digital technology	60.1 End 2022 60.2 End 2026 60.3 End 2024	To be commenced
61	Sharing mental health and wellbeing information	End 2022	In progress
62	Contemporary information architecture	End 2024	In progress
63	Facilitating translational research and its dissemination	63.1 End 2023 63.2 End 2024	In progress
64	Driving innovation in mental health treatment, care and support	End 2031	To be commenced
65	Evaluating mental health and wellbeing programs, initiatives and innovations	65.1 End 2022 65.2 End 2026 65.3 End 2031	In progress
IR1	Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing	Not specified	Completed
IR2	Targeted acute mental health service expansion	Mid 2022	Completed
IR3	Suicide prevention	Not specified	Completed
IR4	Aboriginal social and emotional wellbeing	End 2026	Completed

Rec	Title	Implementation to be completed by (as set by Royal Commission)	Implementation progress
IR5	A service designed and delivered by people with lived experience	Not specified	In progress
IR6	Lived experience workforces	Not specified	In progress
IR7	Workforce readiness	Junior Medical Officers by End 2023, otherwise not specified	In progress
IR8	New approach to mental health investment	Not specified	Completed
IR9	The Mental Health Implementation Office	Not specified	Completed



“My aspiration for the future of the Commission is that we will prove to be effective; to truly progress the vision of the Royal Commission’s Final Report; to carry meaning for people with lived experience; and to be enabling and supportive to services.”

Danilo Di Giacomo, General Manager, Lived Experience