

**Figure 2.8:** Guiding principles for Victoria's mental health and wellbeing system

## Guiding principles for Victoria's mental health and wellbeing system

The Royal Commission acknowledges that mental health and wellbeing is shaped by the social, cultural, economic and physical environments in which people live and is a shared responsibility of society.

It envisages a mental health and wellbeing system in which:

1	The inherent dignity of people living with mental illness or psychological distress is respected, and necessary holistic support is provided to ensure their full and effective participation in society.
2	Family members, carers and supporters of people living with mental illness or psychological distress have their contributions recognised and supported.
3	Comprehensive mental health treatment, care and support services are provided on an equitable basis to those who need them and as close as possible to people's own communities—including in rural areas.
4	Collaboration and communication occur between services within and beyond the mental health and wellbeing system and at all levels of government.
5	Responsive, high-quality, mental health and wellbeing services attract a skilled and diverse workforce.
6	People with lived experience of mental illness or psychological distress, family members, carers and supporters, as well as local communities, are central to the planning and delivery of mental health treatment, care and support services.
7	Mental health and wellbeing services use continuing research, evaluation and innovation to respond to community needs now and into the future.

**Note:** These principles are in large part based on the many contributions made to the Commission, as well as relevant international documents such as the United Nations' *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, the World Health Organization's publications on mental health (including its 2014 report with the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation on the social determinants of mental health) and legislation such as the Commonwealth Government's *Carers Recognition Act 2010*.