

## Summary and response to Recommendation 1 and 2 of the Royal Commission final report

### *A new Mental Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Framework to drive system reform and a new 'State-wide Plan for the Promotion of Good Mental Health and Wellbeing and the Prevention of Mental Illness'*

Tandem welcomes the Commission's recommendation for the establishment of a new, comprehensive outcomes framework to drive system reform and collective accountability for achieving the outcomes that matter to consumers and the family and friends who support them.

Informed by the Commission's [Guiding Principles](#), this framework will be fundamental in driving reform toward a cohesive mental health and wellbeing system that consumers and their family and friends deserve.

Crucially, the guiding principles that will drive the development of the new framework reflect the important role family and friends will play in the reformed system.

The principles state 'family members, carers and supporters' will be central to planning and delivery of mental health treatment, care and support services (Guiding Principle 2), and that their contributions will be recognised and supported (Guiding Principle 6).

The Commission specifically mentions the pivotal role families will play in the development of the Framework:

"Current whole-of-system and whole-of-government input is required [on the development of the new framework], as is leadership from people with lived experience of mental illness or psychological distress, and the expertise of families, carers and supporters, mental health and wellbeing services, other social and related services, researchers and the workforce." (p. 116)

Furthermore, in the recommended design features of the new framework, the Commission emphasises the critical importance of creating the Framework in partnership with families, carers and supporters.

As the trusted voice representing Victorian family and friends in mental health, it follows, and we fully expect, Tandem will have a key seat at the table in the development of the new framework.

Tandem commends the Commission's emphasis on full transparency and accountability for the outcomes to improve the mental health and wellbeing of all Victorians, of which this framework will be pivotal.

As the Commission states, it will be the responsibility of all levels of government and all parts of the whole mental health and wellbeing system to work together to drive the transformational change that is needed.

Tandem further welcomes the Commission's recommendation for a renewed approach to mental health promotion and prevention in Victoria. As outlined in Recommendation 2, dedicated funding will be allocated to mental health promotion and prevention services and activities, and the establishment of a new Mental Health and Wellbeing Promotion Office will lead the development of a new State-wide Plan to guide collective efforts across sectors and in multiple settings to improve the mental health and wellbeing of all Victorians, including those experiencing mental health challenges.

As outlined in [Table 4.1](#), Tandem welcomes the focus the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Promotion Office will have on local communities, workplaces and educational settings in the delivery of mental health prevention and promotion activities across the state.

Priorities involving social and emotional wellbeing in schools are especially welcome. This has been an area of focus for Tandem with respect to the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people supporting a parent or other family member with mental health challenges and the responses of schools. We further welcome the emphasis on research, evaluation and knowledge translation to support social and emotional wellbeing in schools, particularly where this can be targeted to improve responses and support for at-risk young people, such as those caring for a parent or other family member with mental health challenges.

It is encouraging to see specific mention of wellbeing for the mental health workforce, alongside priorities to improve workforce planning and professional development to strengthen prevention and promotion across the sector.

We further welcome the Commission's attention on reducing risk factors for poor mental health in Victoria's diverse communities.

Lastly, we welcome the attention given to partnerships with key sectors and leaders with lived experience in the development and delivery of the new State-wide Plan. It follows, as with the Outcomes Framework, Tandem and the voices of mental health family and friends will play an important role in informing the development of this new plan.

For more context and information, we invite you to read the following summaries which outline Recommendation 1 and 2 corresponding to chapters 3 and 4:

[\*\*Recommendation 1 Chapter 3: A system focused on outcomes\*\*](#)

[\*\*Recommendation 2 Chapter 4: Working together to support good mental health and wellbeing\*\*](#)