

MEDIA RELEASE

24 February 2021

Tandem welcomes the historic release of the Royal Commission report to be tabled prior to a joint session of Parliament on 2 March 2021.

Tandem CEO Marie Piu and Board Chair Dr. Melissa Petrakis welcome the announcement that the Royal Commission's final report into Victoria's mental health system will be tabled on Tuesday March 2nd prior to a joint sitting of the Victorian Parliament.

In a media statement last week, the Victorian Government reiterated its commitment to deliver on every single recommendation from the final report.

Announcing the release, Premier Daniel Andrews stated:

"We're facing a watershed moment in Victoria's history. This report will change lives, and it'll save lives. The thousands of Victorians who have so bravely and so generously shared their personal stories deserve our full, undivided attention - and they deserve our help."

Deputy Premier and Minister for Mental Health, James Merlino, said:

"This is an historic opportunity for a special sitting of parliament which highlights just how important this moment is. We know that our mental health system is broken, and this report will deliver the blueprint for delivering the biggest social reform in a generation."

Marie stated: *"This is a watershed moment for Victorian family and friends in mental health. Tandem is hopeful that the release of this final report will lead to Safe, Inclusive, Fair and well-funded mental health support services responding to all Victorians, and the family and friends supporting and walking alongside them in their mental health journey."*

Board Chair Dr. Melissa Petrakis said: *"While a conclusion to a 2-year Royal Commission process, this is an important beginning: an opportunity to recast and reimagine service responses that have a living philosophy of power-sharing and inclusion, and are adequately funded to be co-designed, co-produced and co-evaluated with the lived experiences of consumers/service users and their families/supporters at the centre of change strategies and how these are realised."*

We look forward to sharing our reflections with you as soon as the report is tabled and doing our best to ensure the voice of family and friends in mental health becomes *core business* going forward.

Marie Piu CEO Tandem & Dr. Melissa Petrakis Chair Tandem Board