



Victorian Mental Health Policy Network (VMHPN) 2019

1. Role and Purpose

The role of Victorian Mental Health Policy Network (VMHPN) will be to provide strategic direction and leadership to:

- Focus on strategies to increase investment in mental health;
- Identify service gaps;
- Promote solutions, outcomes, and measures that reduce hospital admissions and relieve pressure on ambulance, police and crisis services;
- Place mental health as an election priority, at the State and Federal level;
- Ensure mental health is treated as a Whole-of-Government issue
- Have an ongoing role in influencing mental health system improvements;
- Create messaging and communications strategies that raise the understanding of mental health services and supports in Victoria; and
- Identify Mental Health Victoria priorities for research and policy.

2. Terms of Reference

1. Establish and maintain a mental health policy network to analyse and develop strategies to improve Victoria's mental health system and increase investment.
2. Provide ongoing advice on research on priority areas for investment in Victorian mental health.
3. Create a repository for published data, policy statements and related documents.
4. Establish and operate a campaign agenda, including:
 - the collaborative development of election and policy-related material
 - opportunities to influence public policy on mental health
 - media materials, messaging, communications and promotional opportunities
5. This Terms of Reference is effective from [tbc] and will be ongoing until terminated by agreement between the parties.

3. Membership of the VMHPN

MHV has invited the following organisations (and their designated representative) to join VMHPN:

- Mental Health Victoria (MHV)
- Australian College of Emergency Medicine (ACEM)
- Australian College of Mental Health Nurses
- Australians for Mental Health
- Australian Medical Association Victoria (AMA Vic)
- Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) – Victorian Branch
- Australian Psychological Society (APS)
- Australian Services Union (ASU)
- Carers Victoria
- Council to Homeless Persons
- Health and Community Services Union (HACSU)
- National Disability Services (NDS)
- Mental Health Foundation Australia
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP)
- Tandem Carers
- The Police Association of Victoria
- Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (VACCHO)
- Victorian Healthcare Association (VHA)
- Victorian Primary Health Network Alliance (VPHNA)
- Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council (VMIAC)
- Victorian Council of Social Services (VCOSS)

4. Roles and Responsibilities

VMHPN will be responsible for:

- Monitoring and managing issues critical to its success;
- Maintaining a focus on the agreed scope and outcomes;
- Fostering collaborations with other stakeholders;
- Making timely decisions and taking actions to support agreed on outcomes;
- Addressing any potential risks and issues as they arise; and
- Providing information, data and case studies that support the aims and actions

5. Meetings

All meetings will be chaired by Mental Health Victoria, unless the Network decides otherwise.

Decisions will be reached by consensus (i.e. members are satisfied with the decision even though it may not be their first choice). If not possible, the Chair will make final decisions.

Meeting agendas and minutes will be provided by MHV.

Unless otherwise agreed by the Network, meetings will run for two hours, and will be held at the Mental Health Victoria office (Lvl 2, 22 Horne St Elsternwick), with teleconferencing available.

