Background

The Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System continues to be a key focus for the Victorian Branch of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP).

Throughout 2019-20, the Victorian Branch has actively engaged with the Royal Commission on issues spanning the breadth of the mental health system, including child and adolescent services, consultation-liaison psychiatry, eating disorders, community mental health, supported decision making and the mental health of older people. This engagement has aimed to ensure the voice of psychiatry is present throughout current and future mental health reform in Victoria.

The Royal Commission Final Report is due for release in February 2021. In preparation for the Final Report, the Victorian Branch has prepared the below summary of engagement with the Royal Commission and other key stakeholders up until October 2020.

December 2018 – January 2019

Consultation on the Terms of Reference

› Victorian Branch consulted with RANZCP Committee Chairs to inform submission
› Victorian Branch sought feedback from all Victorian members on submission
› Submission provided to consultation on Terms of Reference (25 January)
› Letter to Minister for Mental Health regarding submission on Terms of Reference
› Victorian Branch developed comparative analysis of key submissions to the Terms of Reference

February – July 2019

RANZCP Victorian Branch submission

› Victorian Branch conducted interviews with RANZCP Faculty and Section representatives to inform submission
› RANZCP news item flagging the Royal Commission website
› Survey of Victorian members to inform submission to the Royal Commission
› Victorian Branch Internal Strategic Issues Workshop (30 April)
› Victorian Branch Member Forum (25 May)
› Formal Victorian Branch Submission delivered to the Royal Commission
› Comparative analysis of formal submissions from key stakeholders conducted by Victorian Branch

22 February 2019

Release of Terms of Reference and Commissioner announcement

› Media release from Victorian Branch
› News item on appointment of RANZCP Fellow Dr Alex Cockram as a Commissioner

August – November 2019

RANZCP Roundtable and input into Interim Report

› Victorian Branch representative attends Royal Commission Roundtable on workforce (21 August)
› Roundtable meeting with Commissioners and Victorian Branch Committee, Faculty and Section representatives (5 September)
› Follow up letter to Commissioners regarding two key priorities raised at the meeting – beds and workforce
Release of Interim Report

- Media release from Victorian Branch
- Victorian Branch consulted with RANZCP Faculty Sub-Committee Chairs and Committees on the Interim Report
- ABC news interview with Victorian Branch Chair
- Letter to Royal Commissioners welcoming the Interim Report
- Letter to the Minister for Mental Health acknowledging the Interim Report

Response to Interim Report

- Letter to Commissioners requesting meetings on Old Age and Consultation Liaison Psychiatry
- Media release on establishment of Mental Health Reform Victoria
- Letter to Mental Health Reform Victoria
- Meeting with Minister for Mental Health (12 February)

2020 RANZCP Roundtables

- Meeting with Royal Commission: Old Age Psychiatry (10 March)
- Meeting with Royal Commission: Consultation Liaison Psychiatry (19 March)
- Written summary of meeting on Old Age Psychiatry provided to Royal Commission
- Written summary of meeting on CL Psychiatry provided to Royal Commission
- Meeting with Royal Commission: Eating Disorders (29 April)
- Meeting with Royal Commission: Supported Decision Making (29 April)
- Meeting with Mental Health Reform Victoria (7 May)
- Written summary of meeting on Supported Decision Making provided to Royal Commission
- Written summary of meeting on Eating Disorders provided to Royal Commission
- Meeting with Royal Commission: Child and Adolescent Psychiatry I (18 June)
- Meeting with Minister for Mental Health (22 July)
- Meeting with Royal Commission: Child and Adolescent Psychiatry II (29 July)
- Letter to Royal Commission regarding psychiatry training (6 August)
- Meeting with Mental Health Reform Victoria (11 August)
- Written summary of meeting on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry provided to Royal Commission
- Royal Commission Roundtable on Workforce attended by Victorian Branch Chair

Input into Final Report

- Meeting with Royal Commission on Community Mental Health with Mental Health Victoria (7 October)
- Meeting with Royal Commission on State-wide Specialist Services (9 October)
- Letter to Royal Commission regarding psychotherapy (13 October)
- Letter to Royal Commission regarding separation of AOD and mental health (29 October)