

## 2.2 MONASH COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO VICTORIA'S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

(SP: File No.)

Responsible Director: Julie Salomon

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council notes the report and the Monash City Council submission to the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

This report provides a summary of the Monash Council submission to the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System

### **BACKGROUND**

The Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System (the Royal Commission) is an opportunity for local voices to be heard. It is an opportunity to advocate for strengthening mental health services, ending the stigma and discrimination, and to accelerate improvements in access to mental health services, service navigation and models of care. One of the many ways individuals and organisations can participate in the Royal Commission is through formal written submissions.

Monash Council has many professional staff who:

- support people at different life stages;
- screens mental health as part of core business;
- makes preliminary assessments and refers people experiencing mental health concerns to relevant service providers; and
- consults regularly with the community and community based organisations on issues associated with mental health and wellbeing as articulated in Councils Municipal Public Health Plan - *A Healthy and Resilient Monash Integrated Plan*.

### **DISCUSSION**

Extensive internal and external consultation was undertaken to inform the Monash Council submission to the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System.

These consultations confirmed that Mental Health services continue to be a priority for the Monash community, including the provision of and access to Mental Health services, referral pathways and support, raising awareness and community education.

Additionally Council has widely circulated the information and encouraged community members to respond directly to the Commission.

Monash Council's Submission to the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System (Attachment 1) provides a response to the questions posed by the Commission, describing barriers and suggesting improvements.

Monash Council response was submitted to the Royal Commission by the due date of 5 July 2019.

### ***SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS***

By making a submission, Monash Council has participated in the opportunity to improve Victoria's Mental Health System, to improve the community's mental health and wellbeing.

### ***HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS***

The submission seeks to represent and respect the needs and human rights of the Monash community, including to reduce stigma and discrimination around people experiencing a mental health condition.

### ***CONSULTATION***

There was extensive consultation with Council staff from Children, Youth and Family Services, Community Strengthening and Community Support and Libraries. External consultation consisted of attendance at the Monash Multicultural & Settlement Services Network (MMSSN) which represents numerous organisations and community leaders in Monash, the Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) and the Disability Advisory Committee (DAC).

### ***CONCLUSION***

The Monash Council submission to the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System identified key issues in the provision of and access to Mental Health services, referral pathways and support, raising awareness and community education. The attached submission is presented to Council for noting.

### ***ATTACHMENTS***

**Attachment 1:** Monash Council's submission to the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System