

The Board of the Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing  
Department of Health, Victoria  
50 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne, 3000

8<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**Re: Invitation for Expressions of Interest, Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing**

Dear Members of the Board,

On behalf of our consortium partners, The Royal Melbourne Hospital and The University of Melbourne are delighted to submit our collective response to the Expression of Interest for the Adult and Older Adult Best Practice Consortium for the Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing (Collaborative Centre).

We recognise the Collaborative Centre as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reshape the mental health and wellbeing landscape in Victoria and Australia. The Collaborative Centre will be at the heart of transforming Victoria's mental health system and a main driver to implement real change as recommended by the Royal Commission. It is genuinely exciting – particularly for its potential to go beyond the standards set by current international exemplars and strive towards a Collaborative Centre that is world leading, truly innovative and uniquely Victorian.

The vital importance of authentic collaboration and partnership in the Collaborative Centre cannot be understated. This is too crucial, too significant for any of Victoria's mental health leaders to deliver alone. We believe the government's vision for the Collaborative Centre can only be achieved through a network of dedicated, experienced and flexible partners working towards a common goal: to design and build an innovative, inclusive Collaborative Centre at the heart of the mental health and wellbeing system that will deliver the best possible outcomes for Victorians.

We envision a dynamic partnership between clinicians and services providers, academics and researchers, and members of the lived and living experience community at the Collaborative Centre. We firmly believe that lived experience and the peer workforce can no longer be viewed as optional – instead they must lead and hold real power in the Collaborative Centre. Successfully embedding dedicated lived experience roles at all levels in the Collaborative Centre will transform the work undertaken and have a positive flow on effect for people accessing services.

For the past 24 months, we've worked towards building a Consortium of partners who are leaders in lived experience, research, clinical care, education and training. These partners are committed to investing in and supporting the Collaborative Centre's vision for translational research that drives real change, contemporary and expert care, and developing a world-class mental health workforce.

Together we've developed principles for a collaborative partnership between the Royal Melbourne Hospital, the University of Melbourne, leading universities and specialist providers across Victoria that:

- places human rights at the centre of our thinking and values equity and inclusion
- openly surfaces and overturns relationships of power
- respects and trusts the expertise, experience and evidence that each partner brings
- is built on empathy, timely and transparent communication
- is galvanised behind a shared vision for the future
- is brave in its ambition to innovate and drive systems change

Our proposal follows the structure of the EOI response template and demonstrates why our consortium, led by the Royal Melbourne Hospital and the University of Melbourne, is best suited to take a leading role at the Collaborative Centre.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss any aspects of our responses to the Expression of Interest with you. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms Malar Thiagarajan at +61 481 462 740 or [malar.thiagarajan@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:malar.thiagarajan@unimelb.edu.au)



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**Professor Christine Kilpatrick**  
Chief Executive | The Royal Melbourne  
Hospital



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**Professor Jane Gunn**  
Dean | Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry  
and Health Sciences, The University of  
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**Ms Frances Diver**  
Chief Executive | Barwon Health



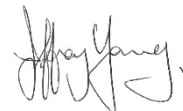
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**Professor Rachel Huxley**  
Executive Dean | Faculty of Health,  
Deakin University



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**Ms Belinda Scott**  
Executive Director, Mental Health |  
Northern Health



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**Professor Jeff Young**  
Director | The Bouverie Centre, La  
Trobe University



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**Adj. Professor Russell Harrison**  
Chief Executive | Western Health



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**Professor Andy Hill**  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research &  
Impact | Victoria University



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**Dr Margaret Grigg**  
Chief Executive | Forensicare



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**Professor Karen Hapgood**  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research |  
Swinburne University



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**Ms Nicole Tweddle**  
Chief Executive | St Vincent's Hospital  
Melbourne



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**Professor Meg Stuart**  
Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
(Academic) | Australian Catholic  
University



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**Mr Dale Fraser**  
Chief Executive | Grampians Health  
Service



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**Professor Calum Drummond**  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and  
Innovation | Royal Melbourne Institute  
of Technology



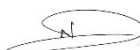
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**Associate Professor Ravi Bhat**  
Divisional Clinical Director | Goulburn  
Valley Health Area Mental Health &  
Wellbeing Service




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**Professor Victoria Palmer**  
Co-Director | The ALIVE National Centre  
for Mental Health Research Translation



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**Ms Nicole Bartholomeusz**  
Chief Executive | cohealth



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**Ms Nicola Ballenden**  
Executive Director Research Advocacy  
and Policy Development | MIND  
Australia

*Brownyn Pike*

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**Hon Brownyn Pike AM**  
Chief Executive | Uniting Vic.Tas