



Building the evidence base of Prevention and Recovery Care (PARC) services in Victoria, Australia

What is the purpose of the project?



Victoria's Prevention and Recovery Care (PARC) services are residential services that aim to minimise time in hospital for people with severe mental disorder. This project aims to explore the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of Victoria's adult PARC services. Findings from the project will provide important information for service improvement and to help shape future directions for PARC-type services in Australia. The project is a partnership between academic institutions, Mental Health Community Support Services (MHCSS), clinical mental health service providers and the Victorian Government.



What will the project involve?

The project has a number of different components and will use several different data sources and research methods. In the first instance, we will seek input from each Victorian adult PARC services to develop a detailed typology and comprehensive mapping of services. Next, we will use mental health service data collected by the Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services to fully understand PARCS in the context of mental health service provision in Victoria. The final component places a strong emphasis on consumer perspectives by following a cohort of a large number of consumers over a one-year period starting from their admission to a PARC service. A series of individual interviews, surveys and focus groups will also be conducted with a smaller group of consumers and carers.



Who is involved?

This investigation will be conducted by a team of independent researchers from the *University of Melbourne, Monash University, La Trobe University* and *Deakin University*. The researchers will work alongside partners from all the current MHCSS involved in providing PARC Services: *Break Thru, Cohealth, Ermha, Life Without Barriers, Mind Australia, Neami National* and *Wellways (formerly MIF)*.



What will be required of each PARC service and when will this happen?

Each PARC service will have the opportunity to participate. Around *March 2017* we will conduct a meeting with representatives from the management of each PARC service in Victoria. This meeting will be fully funded by the project. From *March 2017* until *October 2018* we will be recruiting consumers from each PARC service for individual interviews. We will ask these people if they agree to be followed up for one year from the date of the first interview. Between *February* and *May 2018*, we will be recruiting a second group of consumers and carers to participate in an individual interview, survey or focus group.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Dr Lisa Brophy from the University of Melbourne at lbrophy@unimelb.edu.au ph: 83440664.

