

MEDIA RELEASE

Fifty organisations pledge to stop mental illness stigma

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The peak body for mental health services in Victoria, VICSERV, has become the 50th Australian organisation to sign Murray PHN's 'Stop Mental Illness Stigma' Charter.

The charter is a series of commitments intended to assist organisations and their staff to tackle mental illness stigma. By committing to the charter each organisation pledges:

- We will be informed
- We will listen
- We will be mindful of our language
- We will be inclusive
- We will challenge the stereotypes
- We will be supportive
- We will promote recovery

Murray PHN CEO, Matt Jones, said he was proud that so many organisations, both within the Murray PHN catchment and nationally, had committed to sign the charter and stop stigma.

"For many people living with mental illness, stigma and discrimination are part of their lives, which can make their illness worse," Mr Jones said.

"Murray PHN developed the charter in 2016 because we are acutely aware of the impact that stigma can have on people with a mental illness," he said.

VICSERV CEO, Angus Clelland, said he was delighted to sign the Stop Mental Illness Stigma Charter and congratulated Murray PHN for this important initiative.

"We know that half of all Australians will experience mental illness at some stage of their lives. This is a staggering statistic and a surprise to many who work outside of the mental health sector," Mr Clelland said.

"While much has changed and more and more people are willing to publicly discuss their experiences of mental illness, more needs to be done to address stigma and discrimination.

"It is very important that employers like VICSERV sign the Charter and publicly affirm they will do everything they can to promote inclusion and acceptance.

"Signing the Stop Mental Illness Charter is a visible and public commitment that we at VICSERV will ensure that in everything we do, we will be informed, mindful, inclusive, supportive and will challenge stereotypes," he said.

"We will also actively promote the Charter to the many hundreds of organisations we work with to encourage broader adoption."

Contact details

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