

IVAN FRKOVIC, Queensland Mental Health Commissioner

Your voice, one vision video transcript

We're going to be launching a consultation report on the 10th of October at Parliament House.

The consultation report that we've compiled is from a recent consultation we did with consumers, carers, family members, and service providers across the state to inform our new and revised strategic plan.

We heard a whole range of things during that consultation which will help us shape the direction of the strategic plan. Some of the key messages that came through were about we need to look at designing a system that is based on the needs of consumers and carers who use the services and less so on the people who deliver those services. People talked about being able to access the right service at the right time. In breaking down the silos between services, particularly drug and alcohol and mental health, public, private and NGO type services.

There was a lot of discussion around what we can do more broadly about breaking down the stigma, and we have made some in-roads there, but still we've got to do a lot more work around some of the low prevalence disorders, particularly bi-polar, schizophrenia, which still don't have the same level of acceptance in our society as anxiety and depression.

People talked about we need to try and shift some of the investment upstream into the areas of early intervention, prevention, mental health promotion. Areas that will potentially prevent people needing to access high end acute services.

But overall, we started to get the feel that people were talking about a system that was built on four key pillars: a system that provides good clinical services when people need it, good psychosocial support services, access to housing, and access to employment.

I am confident that we can achieve that. But we will only achieve that if we have a collective approach to this. And that collective approach will involve a range of stakeholders, but I think the two critical stakeholders are people with lived experience and their families and carers to inform that reform. But also we've got to look at the contemporary evidence and data which will then help us shape the strategy and have broad-based community buy-in about where we need to go.