
Tandem Participation Register – Call out for Expressions of Interest (EOI)

**New youth inpatient beds (18-25 years) in regional
Victoria – 1:1 Conversations with families, carers and
supporters – February 2023**

Lived and living engagement opportunity facilitated by the Victorian Government Department of Health

Overview

Currently, most young people aged 18-25 years who need acute mental health treatment are admitted to adult inpatient wards.

The [Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System](#) highlighted the negative impacts this can have on young people. To address this, they recommended establishing dedicated youth beds for the occasions when young people need support that is best provided in a bed-based service.

The Department of Health is keen to hear from families and carers of young people (aged 18-25 years) living in regional areas who have accessed acute bed-based care – to understand their preferences and priorities for this future service.

This consultation will help inform thinking around options for establishing new youth beds in regional locations. This conversation is just the beginning but is an important step to help the Department set guiding principles for decisions later this year. The Department intends to run an in-depth co-design process in the future – including working with young people, and their families, carers and supporters to design a new model for youth beds.

Engagement format

Participation in a 1:1 Conversation (up to 60 minutes) with a facilitator from the Department of Health. The facilitator will work with you to explore questions like:

- ‘What matters for you when your loved one accesses inpatient care?’
- ‘What would a service need to look like to make you feel like your loved one is in a safe and supportive environment?’ and
- ‘Would you prefer your loved one accessed care in your local community, or are you happy to travel further if it meant they could access a dedicated youth inpatient service?’

The conversation will be conducted online via Microsoft TEAMS. If you do not have access to Microsoft TEAMS please let Tandem know and we'll find out if ZOOM can be used instead. With your consent, the conversation may be recorded for later analysis. Disposal after use can also be discussed.

The facilitator will pre-brief with you before commencing the 1:1 Conversation, to help you understand what to expect and key areas for discussion.

Engagement Schedule (dates & times)

1:1 Conversation timeslots (up to 60 minutes) will be available on the following dates:

- Day 1: Wednesday 1 February 2023
- Day 2: Thursday 2 February 2023
- Day 3: Friday 3 February 2023

Tandem will work with you and the Department to identify a suitable time. The conversation will be scheduled between 9am and 5pm.

Lived Experience Recruitment Needs:

The Department are seeking the following participants with the following lived and living experience:

- Family member, carer or supporter of a young person aged between 18 and 25 (currently or previously)
- Loved one has lived experience of accessing acute, bed-based mental health services (inpatient services)
- You or your loved accessed (or attempted to access) acute, bed-based mental health services (inpatient service) while in living in regional Victoria
- Interested in informing early thinking about work to establish dedicated acute mental health beds for young people
- Available and willing to attend a 1:1 Conversation (60-minute) to share your insights.

People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, LGBTQIA+ communities and First Nations communities are encouraged to participate.

Remuneration

- Lived experience engagement at the 'Involve' remuneration rate: \$175.00 (up to 4 hours)
- Payment for 4 hours includes any pre-session preparation and post-session evaluation and feedback



Engagement Purpose

The goal of this consultation is to understand what families, carers and supporters value and need when a young person in their life accesses an inpatient service.

Your contribution will help inform the Department's thinking around the roll-out of new youth beds in regional Victoria. A summary of the key themes from these conversations will be shared with participants following the engagement – so you can see how your input helps to shape this work.

Accessibility

- These 1:1 Conversations will be held online. Participants will need a computer/tablet/mobile phone and a stable internet connection to join. Tandem may be able to assist in providing internet access at the Tandem Office in Abbotsford and/or searching for services available at your local library
- Please include any access needs in your EOI or feel free to contact the Tandem Participation Register Coordinator – phone 03 8803 5555 or email mhcregister@tandemcarers.org.au

Support

- Optional pre-session and post-session support is accessible via the Tandem Register Team – please let us know if you would a pre-session briefing and/or post-session debrief (20 to 45 minutes)
- In-session Peer Support will be provided by the Tandem Carer Support Team – one our Peer Support Team members will connect with you at the beginning of the 1:1 Conversation and will check in with you after the session
- Tandem members are also encouraged to contact the [1800 Tandem Support and Referral Line](#) anytime between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday – please visit our website or refer the final page of this document for more detail



Next steps – How to Express your Interest as a Tandem Participation Register member

Step 1

- If you're not already a Tandem Participation Register member, please find out more about eligibility and how to join on our website here: tandemcarers.org.au/register
- The online application form to join the Tandem Participation Register may take 5 to 15 minutes to complete. Please let us know that you have completed your online application when you submit your Expression of Interest (EOI).

Step 2

Please send your brief expression of interest (EOI) with subject line **1:1 Conversations – New youth inpatient beds** in a reply email to mhcregister@tandemcarers.org.au by **10am, Wednesday 25 January 2023** including:

1. Your full name*
2. Preferred pronouns (he/him - she/her - they/them)*
3. Email address*
4. Phone number*
5. A few words (up to 250 words) about your lived experience relevant to the **1:1 Conversations – New youth inpatient beds in regional Victoria** and why you would like to contribute this area of [mental health and wellbeing reform](#)
 - Please refer to the 'Lived Experience Recruitment Needs' on page 2
 - Bullet points are fine – we just need to know your lived experience is relevant to the consultation
6. Your current availability to commit to 1:1 Conversation (up to 60 minutes) on the following dates. Please advise your availability in order of preference:
 - i. Day 1: Wednesday 1 February 2023
 - ii. Day 2: Thursday 2 February 2023
 - iii. Day 3: Friday 3 February 2023

**Note: Your full name, email address and phone number will be provided the Department of Health for all engagement communication such as official invitations, online meeting links, engagement updates, pre-reading (if applicable), evaluation and feedback*

Contact

If you have any questions about this Register lived and living experience engagement opportunity, please contact the Tandem Participation Register Coordinator | Phone (03) 8803 5555 | Email mhcregister@tandemcarers.org.au



Free Tandem Support and Referral Line - 1800 314 325

The Tandem Support and Referral Line provides support, information and referral to the family members, friends and carers of people living with mental health challenges.

Tandem encourages all Register members to use this service.

You can call us for free between 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday, to:

- **Speak with someone who understands your situation**
- **Seek general advice, advocacy and information on services to meet your needs**
- **Seek support with NDIS access and plan issues**

Please note that we are not a crisis service. If you or someone else may be at risk of suicide please contact: Lifeline [13 11 14](tel:131114) - Suicide Helpline [1300 651 251](tel:1300651251) - Kid's Help Line [1800 55 1800](tel:1800551800)

Who can call the Tandem Support and Referral Line?

Family members or friends who are supporting a person with mental health issues are eligible to use Tandem's Support and Referral Service.

If you are a [Tandem member](#) (in addition to Tandem Participation Register membership), you also have access to individual advocacy, support and referral through an Advocate.

This may include:

- Assisting family and friends to understand their rights and responsibilities under relevant legislation and service policies and procedures
- Empowering members to advocate effectively on their own behalf; and
- Providing family and friends with appropriate referrals.

Family, friends, and carers can access the Advocate Service by becoming a [member](#) of Tandem

For more information please call [1800 314 325](tel:1800314325) or email info@tandemcarers.org.au

The Advocate can advise on the use of the [Nominated Persons and Advance Statement](#) components of the Mental Health Act