

Collaboration is why we exist

The Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing exists to drive ground-breaking change to Victoria's mental health and wellbeing system. Collaboration is our purpose and reason for being. We champion lived experience leadership, partnership and participation.

In partnering and collaborating with individuals, services and organisations with diverse experiences, we will create better care, treatment and support.

Collaboration encourages innovation and trying new ways of doing things together.

We will partner and collaborate when our values align.

Our Collaborative Charter

A relational approach

Every collaboration is underpinned by genuine relational care.

We're succeeding when:

- Human rights and social justice are non-negotiable.
- Lived experience, workforce and research perspectives are always considered.
- Technical language is avoided in favour of accessible and easy to understand language.

A shared direction

We share the same purpose – to drive ground-breaking, transformative change to the mental health and wellbeing system.

We're succeeding when:

- We're aligned on the task we're trying to achieve.
- We work together to identify the steps we need to take.
- We learn new information and adjust how we'll achieve our goal.

Space for reflection

We include moments to test that we're prioritising safety and reflect on how we're progressing towards our shared goal.

We're succeeding when:

- We regularly ask 'are we making progress?' and 'what might be getting in the way?'.
- We consider if we should be adjusting our plan.
- We look for moments to celebrate we're heading in the right direction.

Share knowledge

We understand our role is to embed sustainable change across the sector as quickly as possible.

We're succeeding when:

- Our work leads to shared knowledge and drives positive change.
- We identify who can benefit from what we've learnt to ensure it gets to those who need it.
- We take the time to share learnings with others.

Be accountable

We do what we say we'll do and provide regular updates on progress, and expect our partners to do the same.

We're succeeding when:

- There's a clear governance framework, roles and responsibilities.
- We work ethically and understand and adhere to all relevant legislation and policies.
- We close the loop with those we've engaged with.

Value all perspectives

We actively seek to embed a wide range of perspectives and enable the voices of marginalised people and groups, as we know this leads to better decisions and outcomes.

We're succeeding when:

- People feel safe to share their views and experiences and know they will be heard and considered.
- We openly surface and address issues of power.
- We identify where we're missing perspectives and seek them out.

Find new ways

We recognise that we need new ways of tackling the barriers to improving mental health treatment, care and support, thereby validating a sense of hope.

We're succeeding when:

- Our conversations encourage new ways of thinking.
- We're willing to test innovative ideas and learn from them.
- We're supporting our partners to be brave to challenge the status quo.

The bigger picture

We acknowledge that improving mental health care takes time and humility. We keep our focus on the long-term ambition while looking for opportunities along the way.

We're succeeding when:

- We hold true to our vision and mission when things get hard.
- We recognise collaboration comes in many different forms.
- We consider what resources we need and go after them.

Connecting to our foundations

Lived experience leadership, partnership and participation

Collaborating and connecting across the mental health sector

Human rights and social justice