



**The Victorian
Collaborative Centre**
For Mental Health & Wellbeing

Statement of Priorities

2024-25 Agreement between the Minister for Mental Health and the
Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing

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Background

Statements of Priorities are key accountability agreements between Government and Victorian publicly funded entities, including health, mental health and ambulance services.

For the Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing (the Collaborative Centre), the content and process for preparation and agreement of the annual Statement of Priorities is aligned with section 666 of the *Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022* (the Act). Under section 666(1) of the Act, the Board of the Collaborative Centre prepares the Statement of Priorities in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Health.

The Act requires that the Collaborative Centre provide a copy of the Statement of Priorities to the Minister for Mental Health by 1 October each year and an annual report to the Minister as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year, which is tabled in the Victorian Parliament. The responsibility for performance monitoring of the Collaborative Centre sits with the Mental Health and Wellbeing Division within the Department of Health.

In 2024, the Collaborative Centre published its first *Strategic Plan 2024-2027*. Aligned with this, the content of the 2024-2025 Statement of Priorities captures the strategic objectives, priority activities and outcomes expected for the financial year ahead. It consists of four main parts:

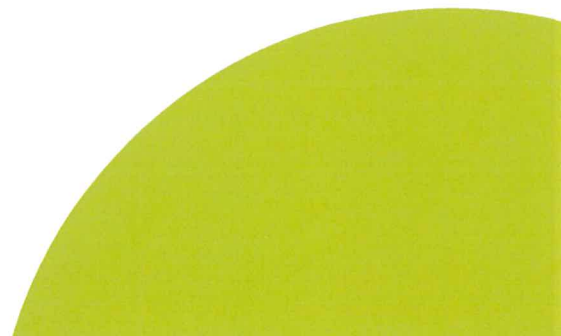
- **Part A** provides an overview of the Collaborative Centre's vision, purpose, principles and functions that guide the activities we will achieve in the coming year.
- **Part B** lists the performance priorities and agreed outcomes and measures.
- **Part C** lists our funding, accountability and reporting requirements.
- **Part D** forms the service agreement between the Collaborative Centre and the State of Victoria.

This Statement of Priorities also aligns with the Minister for Mental Health's priorities for the mental health and wellbeing system.

Ministerial Priorities

The Minister for Mental Health's priorities for improving the mental health and wellbeing system include:

- (a) Supporting people to stay well in their communities through prevention and promotion
- (b) Growing strong, safe, and supported mental health workforces through the implementation of the mental health workforce strategy
- (c) Supporting a system that embeds lived experience at every level
- (d) Delivering connected, new and better community and bed-based services
- (e) Supporting better consumer outcomes through performance improvement
- (f) Elevating consumer rights and supporting cultural change in line with the principles of the Act
- (g) Providing culturally safe services that deliver social and emotional wellbeing models for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Part A: Overview of the Collaborative Centre

Our vision and purpose

The *Strategic Plan 2024-2027* outlines our vision of better mental health and wellbeing for all Victorians through collaborating and learning together. In partnership with people with lived and living experiences, we will translate evidence into innovative and effective practice, engaging with the workforce and researchers towards our common goal of driving ground-breaking change to Victoria's mental health and wellbeing system.

Our functions

Our functions are set out in section 643 of the Act. The *Strategic Plan 2024-2027* reflects these functions, moving from establishing our foundations to growing our capacity and delivering change. Over the next three years we will collaborate across the system to identify the areas where we can add value and amplify existing efforts towards positive change. We will develop and demonstrate new and more effective ways of working in the delivery of our core functions, which include:

- (a) to provide, promote and coordinate the provision of mental health and wellbeing services;
- (b) to assist service providers to facilitate and improve access to mental health and wellbeing services;
- (c) to provide or arrange the provision of specialist support services and care for persons who have experienced trauma;
- (d) to develop strategies for conducting research, and applying and disseminating research findings, in the field of mental health and wellbeing having regard to any priorities for research determined by the Centre Board in accordance with section 648(f);
- (e) to conduct, promote and coordinate research in the field of mental health and wellbeing, including in collaboration with other persons and entities;
- (f) to provide, promote and coordinate activities that support the continuing education and professional development of service providers and persons who work or conduct research in the field of mental health and wellbeing;
- (g) to provide advice and guidance to service providers and practitioners in relation to the provision of mental health and wellbeing services;
- (h) to report to the Minister and the Health Secretary on matters relevant to its functions
- (i) to perform any other function conferred on the Centre by or under this Act or any other Act.

Our principles

The work of the Collaborative Centre is underpinned by three enabling principles:

- (a) we champion lived and living experience,
- (b) we embed human rights and social justice into everything we do, and
- (c) we collaborate and build trusted relationships.

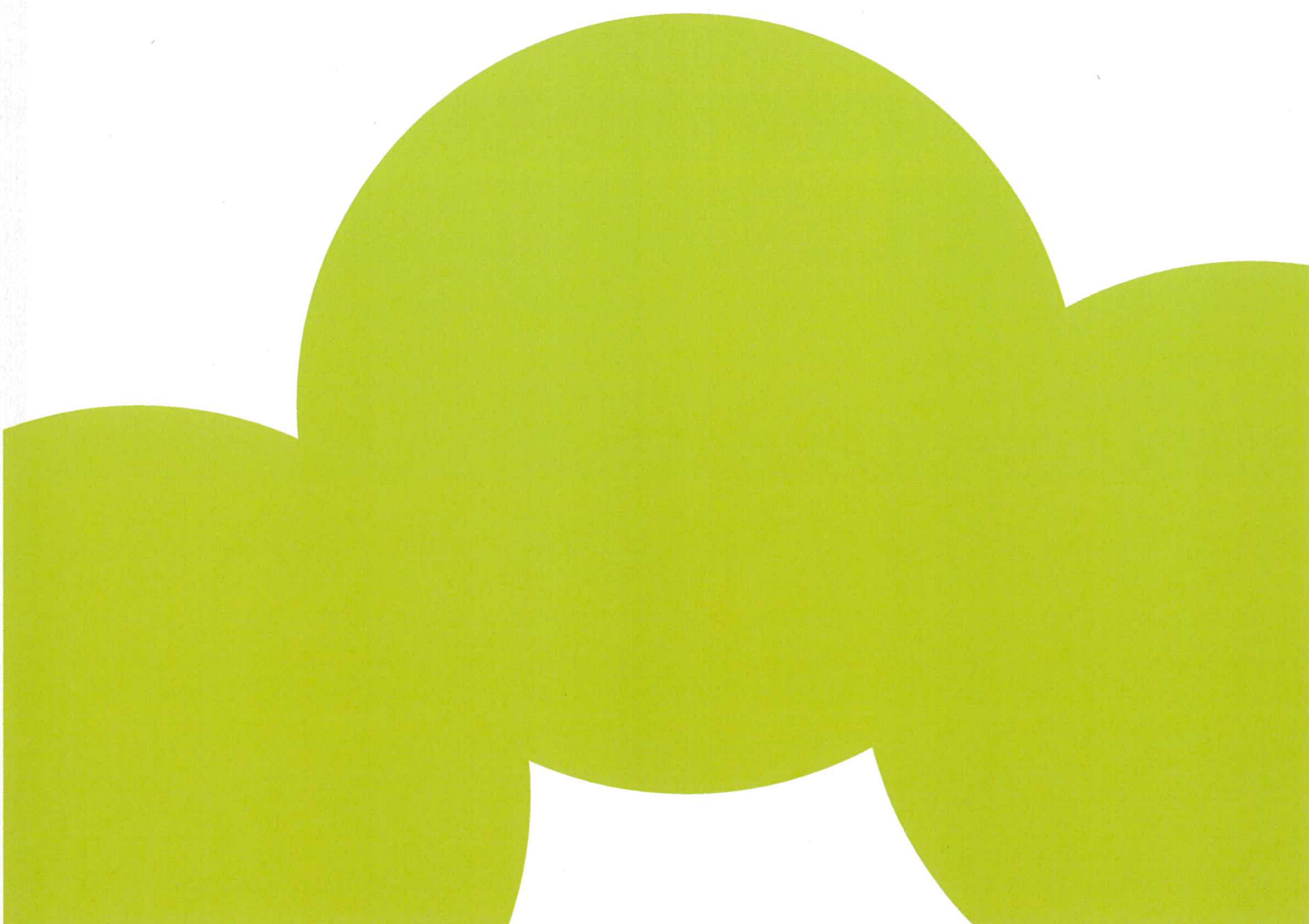
These principles are embedded in the way we work and our actions across five focus areas of the *Strategic Plan 2024-2027*.

In accordance with section 645 of the Act, the Board and staff of the Collaborative Centre also adhere to the following principles when performing functions or duties, or exercising powers under the Act:

- (a) give proper consideration to the mental health and wellbeing principles (see below),
- (b) ensure that decision-making processes are transparent, systematic and appropriate, and
- (c) consider ways to promote good mental health and wellbeing.

The mental health and wellbeing principles are set out in Part 1.5 of the Act and include:

- Dignity and autonomy principle
- Diversity of care principle
- Least restrictive principle
- Supported decision making principle
- Family and carers principle
- Lived experience principle
- Health needs principle
- Dignity of risk principle
- Wellbeing of young people principle
- Diversity principle
- Gender safety principle
- Cultural safety principle
- Wellbeing of dependents principle



Part B: Performance Priorities

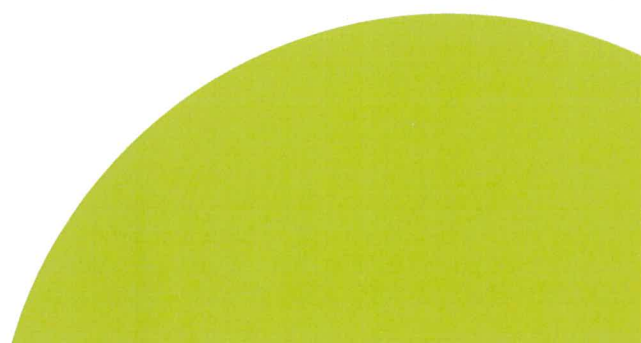
This section of the Statement of Priorities meets the requirements of sections 666(4)(b) and (c) of the Act. It outlines the performance outcomes and measures against which the Collaborative Centre will be assessed and monitored.

The Collaborative Centre's performance priorities are set out in relation to the five focus areas of the *Strategic Plan 2024-2027*. These include:

1. Connecting people, ideas and evidence.
2. Translating research into practice.
3. Providing treatment, care and support.
4. Strengthening and supporting the workforce.
5. Building a sustainable and influential organisation.

Connecting people, ideas and evidence

| Performance outcomes | Performance measures |
|---|---|
| We will convene inclusive knowledge sharing events to drive positive system change | Number of knowledge sharing events hosted or supported by the Collaborative Centre Number and types of attendees at knowledge sharing events Percentage of event attendees reporting increased knowledge of diverse perspectives and innovative practices |
| We will deploy a leading-edge knowledge sharing platform with users at its centre | Number of platform site visits Number of knowledge sharing platform downloads Length of time per visit spent on the knowledge sharing platform |
| We will demonstrate thought leadership by fostering strong engagement across all our communication channels | Number of visits to our website and social media channels Number and type of public communications |

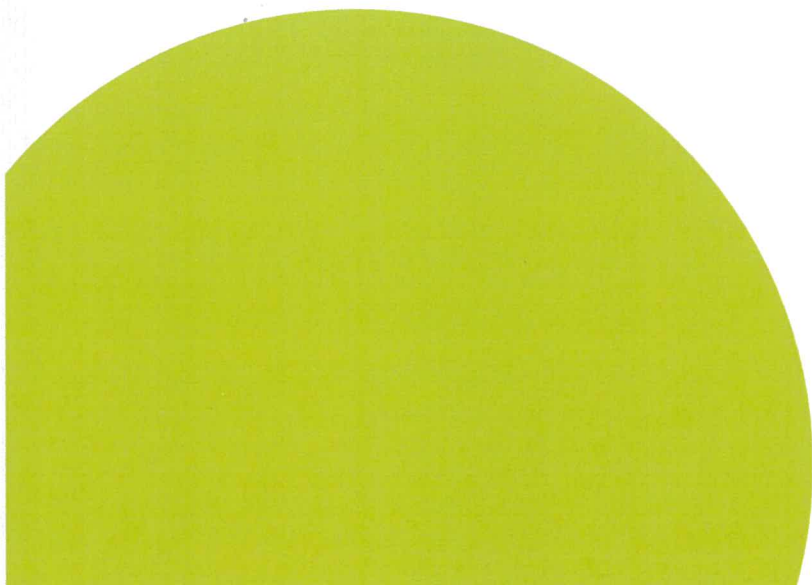


Translating research into practice

| Performance outcomes | Performance measures |
|--|--|
| We will develop and demonstrate effective approaches to translational research | <p>Number of translational research projects in progress aligned to our priority research areas</p> <p>Type of translational research project in progress aligned to our priority research areas</p> |
| We will embed lived and living experiences in translational research projects | 100% of projects embed lived and living experience collaboration, participation or leadership |
| We will embed research in practice to reduce the practice translation gap | Percentage of projects that co-locate research and practice |

Providing treatment, care and support

| Performance outcomes | Performance measures |
|---|---|
| We will co-design models of care to improve experiences of consumers, carers, families, supporters and kin | <p>Number of new community-based models of care delivered in collaboration with the Consortium or a statewide partner</p> <p>Percentage of consumers, carers, families, supporters and kin accessing new models of care who report improved experiences and/or outcomes</p> |
| We will co-design evidence-based models of care guided by lived and living experiences that uphold human rights | Number of evidence-based models of care, delivered in collaboration with our partners, that are guided by lived and living experiences and that uphold human rights |



Strengthening and supporting the workforce

| Performance outcomes | Performance measures |
|---|--|
| We will develop a continuing education and professional development strategy for whole-of-workforce core mental health and wellbeing capabilities | <p>Number and types of engagement with diverse workforces to inform strategy development</p> <p>Number and types of partners and stakeholders providing feedback on the final draft of the strategy</p> |
| We will increase workforce skills, knowledge, and capabilities | <p>Number and types of education and professional training activities co-ordinated through the Collaborative Centre</p> <p>Percentage of workforce attendees who report positive experiences of education and training through the Collaborative Centre</p> <p>Percentage of workforce attendees at capability events delivered by the Collaborative Centre that report an increase in pre- to post-learning</p> |

Building a sustainable and influential organisation

| Performance outcomes | Performance measures |
|--|--|
| We will commence operations from our new accommodation | New accommodation site at 205 Queensberry Street Carlton is operational |
| We will develop our people, internal capabilities, resources, structures and systems to deliver on our strategic areas | <p>70% completion rate of the People Matter Survey</p> <p>Improvement across wellbeing indicators on the People Matter Survey</p> |
| We will strengthen and grow our model of lived experience leadership and expertise | Percentage of Collaborative Centre staff who report increased understanding of the value of lived and living experiences and expertise |



Part C: Funding, accountability and reporting

| Funding | Budget |
|--|---------------------|
| Ongoing funding allocated through the 2021-2022 State Budget | \$4,693,000 |
| Funding through the 2023-2024 State Budget for design and delivery of additional operations in line with Recommendation 63 of the Royal Commission | \$4,836,000 |
| Funding through the 2023-2024 State Budget for new site fit out (carry-over from 2023-24 approved by Department of Treasury and Finance) | \$900,000 |
| Total funding | \$10,429,000 |

Accountability and funding requirements

The Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing complies with:

- All applicable laws including the *Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022* (Vic), *Public Administration Act 2004* (Vic), *Financial Management Act 1994* (Vic), and the corresponding *Standing Directions 2018*.
- Policies, procedures and internal controls to ensure accurate and timely submission of data to the Department of Health.
- Any applicable policies and guidelines issued by the Victorian Public Service Commission or the Department of Health.

Reporting requirements

The Collaborative Centre will report on its performance priorities, outcomes and measures listed in Part B as follows:

- Meet at least quarterly with the Department of Health and provide a report to the Collaborative Centre Board and Department of Health to update on progress, delivery and stakeholder experiences;
- Meet with the Minister for Mental Health at a frequency determined by the Minister;
- Provide a written report to the Department of Health on performance priorities, outcomes and measures for the financial year as soon as practicable after 30 June 2025;
- Complete annual reporting in line with the Act and any other applicable legislation; and
- Reasonable additional reporting and communication to be determined by the Department of Health.

Part D: Signature

The Minister and Chair of the Board agree that funding will be provided to the Collaborative Centre to enable the Centre to meet its objectives, priorities, performance outcomes and measures as outlined in this Statement of Priorities.



The Hon Ingrid Stitt MP
Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Date: 19/12/2024



Mr Terry Laidler
Chairperson
Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing

Date: 25 / 10 /2024