

# Call for abstracts



The biennial VICSERV conference sets the standard for Australian mental health conferences providing challenging content, provocative speakers and leading-edge thinking.

In 2016 we will focus on how the mental health community is stronger in influencing how services are transformed, and fostering optimism and hope, when it is working together. As usual all parts of the mental health community are invited to participate.

The Conference Committee is calling for submissions for **concurrent sessions** or **posters** showcasing **research** or **evidence based best practices** that support positive outcomes for people with a mental illness and that support their carers both in supporting them and looking after themselves.

## We welcome submissions from:

- psychosocial rehabilitation and support organisations
- clinical services and clinical mental health professionals
- primary health professionals working in mental health
- self-help groups
- client-delivered service providers
- consumers and carers
- academics and researchers
- policy makers
- accommodation, support and community participation services
- employment services
- recreation and leisure services.

## Conference key concepts

In 2016 we are taking a more fluid approach to the recruitment of conference content. We invite submissions that focus on better outcomes for **consumers, carers, staff** and **organisations**, under the following key *concepts*.

### Hope and recovery

The ways and benefits of how a hopeful future, and working in a hopeful way, contributes to recovery can be incorporated into the development of our services and demonstrated in our work place interactions.

### Innovation

Including the fostering of creativity and positivity in the face of change, challenges conventional thinking, or processes, and champions beneficial, adaptive solutions.

### Co-design

The possibilities of taking a collective approach to designing, developing and delivering solutions to achieve inclusion, effectiveness and innovative outcomes.

### Peer-led

Examples and opportunities to work with and learn from our peers to achieve powerful and sustainable outcomes.

### Transformation

How we can, and do, work to achieve a better future for people with mental illness, in systems and communities, including our thinking, practice, outcomes and options.

### Empowerment/rights

Human rights as the basis of the work we do, and outcomes we work towards, including how we can influence and determine the direction of individual, system and organisational development.

## SCOPE

Submissions can consider the key concepts in any number of settings including, but not limited to:

- working with individual consumers or carers
- being a carer or person with lived experience
- program development and delivery
- staff and organisational development
- system and policy development
- advocacy at any level
- research and applied research.

## KEY ISSUES

Submissions that consider the following key sector issues, in **addition** to at least one of the key concepts, will be highly regarded:

- the impact and opportunities in the NDIS
- the Victorian Government's Vision and implications of its 10 year mental health strategy
- the national mental health reform agenda
- service integration and coordination, including primary and clinical services
- consumer choice and control
- the carer experience
- the application of technology.

## SESSION FORMAT

Innovative and creative session formats are encouraged and we invite submissions across a variety of formats including, but not limited to:

- standard presentations
- panel discussions
- symposia, specifically where a number of different organisations come together to design their own session around a particular concept/issue
- interactive sessions, please note that concurrent sessions at the VICSERV conference can be large and any interactive sessions will need to take that into account.
- debates
- multimedia presentations
- visual displays
- posters.

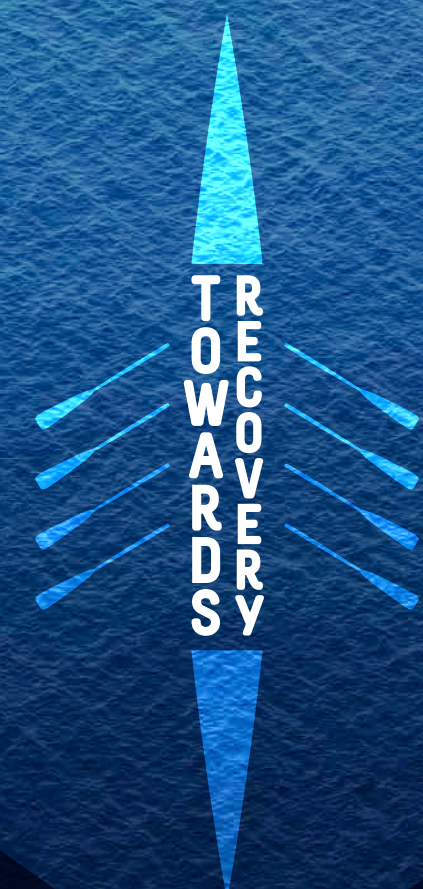
Delegate interaction written into the delivery of any of the session formats will be well received.

## Length of sessions

Sessions must be 30 or 60 minutes long.

These timings include a **10 minute question and answer allowance** for the 30 minute session and a **20 minute allowance** for the 60 minute session.

These session timings will be adhered to in all concurrent sessions and when the allotted formal presentation time has elapsed speakers will be asked by the session chairs/facilitators to move onto to question time.



**For more information**

For more information please visit:  
[conference.vicserv.org.au](http://conference.vicserv.org.au).

Contact the conference team  
by email at [conference@vicserv.org.au](mailto:conference@vicserv.org.au)  
or call **(03) 9519 7000**.



**Psychiatric Disability Services**  
of Victoria (VICSERV)

VICSERV acknowledges  
the support of the  
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**SELECTION CRITERIA**

Successful abstracts will be selected according  
to the following criteria:

- relevance to the key conference concepts
- the level at which it addresses key sector issues
- innovation thinking and/or practice
- highlighting evidence based practice and research
- highlighting collaboration and integrated service models
- building evidence and knowledge across the sector
- innovation in the structure of the conference session.

Finally collaborative projects with a collaborative approach  
to the submission and presentation are actively encouraged.

**SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT**

Abstracts must include a completed **Abstract submission form** or **Poster submission form**. These are available at [conference.vicserv.org.au](http://conference.vicserv.org.au) or on request by emailing [conference@vicserv.org.au](mailto:conference@vicserv.org.au).

If in reviewing abstracts the Conference Committee sees the opportunity, individuals may be approached to work together to develop a single collaborative session across a particular issue or service area.

We receive a large number of abstracts and unfortunately not all can be accepted. Once the Conference Committee has come to its decision, it is final.

**Timings**

- Friday 26 February 2016** → Call for abstracts close
- Monday 21 March 2016** → Acceptance of abstracts advised
- Wednesday 13 April 2016** → Early bird registration closes
- Wednesday 11 May 2016** → Registration closes

**NB: All presenters must register for at least one day of the conference.**

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**VICSERV'S  
MENTAL HEALTH  
CONFERENCE**

**19-20 MAY 2016**  
Melbourne Convention  
and Exhibition Centre

[WWW.VICSERV.ORG.AU](http://WWW.VICSERV.ORG.AU)