

Prevention and Recovery Care Service (PARC)

PARC Questions and Answers

PARC provides short to medium term residential support for people with a mental illness. The service is staffed by trained professionals and supported by the Mental Health Service, operated by St Vincent's Hospital in partnership with MI Fellowship Victoria.

Why has the PARC been created?

Sometimes a person with a mental illness needs live-in short-term support to get them through a difficult patch or to assist with getting back to living independently in their home. The service can help prevent people from requiring a hospital admission or offer some additional support for people upon discharge from hospital. We call it "step-up or step-down".

Where will the people who stay at the PARC come from?

Admission will be limited to people who use St Vincent's Mental Health Service.

Who will run the PARC and who will work there?

The property is owned by the Victorian Government and it provides funding to St Vincent's Hospital to run the service. St Vincent's, in collaboration with MI Fellowship Victoria, will deliver the day-to-day service. All staff are trained professionals with qualifications and experience in supporting people with a mental illness. PARC will be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

How many people will stay there?

The PARC can house up to 10 people but experience at other PARCs suggests that there is likely to be around seven or eight people at any time.

Why North Fitzroy?

The PARC is being developed in North Fitzroy because the area provides a positive community environment. It is close to shops, community services, leisure services, health services and public transport.

When will the service start operating?

We expect the service to be in operation by the start of 2015.

Are there other PARCs in Victoria?

There are already 17 adult and three youth PARCs across Victoria. Metropolitan PARC services are located in areas such as Mont Albert, South Yarra, Springvale, Flemington, Frankston, Narre Warren, Preston, Broadmeadows, Ringwood and Burnside. There are rural PARCS in areas such as Shepparton, Bendigo, Geelong and Bairnsdale.



Should local residents be concerned about those people who are residing at the PARC?

Mental illness affects one in five people from a range of family, cultural, economic and social backgrounds. The people who access the PARC would otherwise be living in their own homes in the local community. Individuals will benefit from living in a 'home-like', inner city environment, where they will use the local shops, transport and community resources the same as everyone does.

Are people living near the PARC at risk of violence or local disturbances?

Anyone seeking to use the PARC will be assessed by St Vincent's and MI Fellowship for suitability. If they are assessed as aggressive or violent, they will not be accepted.

Generally, people with mental illness are more likely to be the victims of violence than be the perpetrators of violence. Any violence or aggression will be reported to police.

Will residents be out in the street during the day or at night?

Yes – people who stay in the PARC will be encouraged to be active members of the community; they will just have some extra support. They will engage in the types of everyday activities that you would expect of anyone and will be free to move around at any time.

What about parking?

There will be onsite parking for staff and visitors. Residents will not bring their cars to the PARC.

Has the Department of Health complied with all necessary planning requirements in establishing the PARC?

In addition to meeting all planning requirements, the Department of Health and St Vincent's Hospital have commenced a process of informing the local community about the PARC.

Will there be signage to identify the PARC?

There will be no external signage.

Will the community be informed when building works are about to begin?

Yes, timelines for clearing and construction will be available as construction commences and continues. Local residents will also be informed via a door knock.

What traffic disruption might there be during the clearing/construction?

The work will be similar to when a new home is constructed or a major renovation and extension is undertaken. Contractors and tradespeople will abide by all local Council and State Government building regulations.

What should I do if I have more questions?

If you want to speak to someone, you can contact Bridget Organ, Manager at St Vincent's Mental Health on 9288 4396. Queries can also be emailed to:

bridget.organ@svhm.org.au

St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne in partnership with Mental Illness Fellowship Victoria

