

ABOUT US

The Second Psychiatric Opinion Service provides independent second psychiatric opinions to people, who are 'eligible patients' under the *Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022*, where an opinion via other means is not available or feasible. If you are an 'eligible patient' you have a right to seek a second psychiatric opinion at any time, or can ask someone to seek a second opinion on your behalf.

If you are under 16 years of age, or on a guardianship order, then your parent or guardian can apply on your behalf.

If you are under a custodial order or subject to a family reunification order, the Secretary to the Department of Health and Human Services may seek a second psychiatric opinion on your behalf.



CONTACT

T: 1300 503 426

E: SecondPsychiatricOpinion@mh.org.au

W: secondopinion.org.au

If you would like to discuss your experience with the Service, or would like to express compliments or make a complaint, please contact the Clinical Coordinator on 1300 503 426, or via our website or email.

The Second Psychiatric Opinion Service is operated in partnership by Melbourne Health and Monash Health.



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Victoria's independent
service for
second opinions

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THE SECOND OPINION PROCESS

Step 1: we will tell you about the role of our service, and determine your eligibility

Step 2: with your consent we will request your recent health information

Step 3: we will provide you with an independent second opinion appointment via Telehealth

Step 4: we will provide you with a written second opinion report - we recommend you read this with a support person

Step 5: we will provide your treating team with the same report so that they can discuss the recommendations with you

WE PROVIDE A SECOND OPINION ON:

- Treatment (including recommending any changes); and/or
- Whether the criteria for compulsory treatment apply to you

The second opinion report is provided in the form of a letter

AN 'ELIGIBLE PATIENT' IS:

- Subject to a Temporary Treatment Order or a Treatment Order;
- A security patient; or
- A forensic patient

Please contact us for any queries about eligibility or to request a second opinion

If there are changes recommended in the Second Opinion Report and your psychiatrist does not adopt any or all of these, you can apply to the Chief Psychiatrist for a review of your treatment.

The Chief Psychiatrist can be contacted on:

- Phone: 1300 767 299

- Email: ocp@dhhs.vic.gov.au

A support person, Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA) or Victorian Legal Aid (VLA) can assist you in that process if needed.

IMHA: 1300 947 820

VLA: 1300 792 387

