



Aspire, A Pathway to Mental Health was first established in the Southwest of Victoria in the early 90's. In 2005, Aspire extended to include all of Tasmania. The organisation was originally established by carers and concerned members of the community to provide support to adults living in the community with a serious mental illness. With two voluntary staff, an answering machine and a borrowed back room office, the first services began. The services have now evolved to providing community based rehabilitation and recovery within a framework of contemporary best practice known as the Boston model. The range of services has expanded exponentially in recent years to include respite, carer support, mental health education, community support and children's services. Aspire now employs over 60 people across two states and twelve office sites. We contribute to research, comment on government policy both locally and nationally and inform the future of service delivery.

In keeping with the evolution of the organisation the Mission and underpinning values have been revisited, refined and redirected to align with both the intention of our founders and needs of our current communities. Aspire's Mission is to *'To enhance the mental health and overall quality of life of every individual in our community.'* To guide the success of the organisation in the realisation of this Mission, Aspire has recently released it's Strategic Plan for the next three years.

The Strategic Plan includes four platforms or primary goals. These are:

- To remain a sustainable organisation
- To deliver excellence in service delivery
- To ensure effective stakeholder communication and management
- To plan workforce development

These platforms inform the planning of the organisation across all areas and all programs. We collect evidence against these areas and report both locally and nationally. The evidence increases our knowledge, informs our practice and guides our future.

The community mental health sector is our future; it is where a real difference can be made for the people accessing services and it is where government will invest. Aspire is committed to leading in the field and contributing to this as an active partner. For more information about Aspire, please visit our website www.aspire.org.au or call our head office in Tasmania on 03 6333 3111 or head office in Warrnambool office in Southwest Victoria on 03 5560 3000.