Inquiry into the Management of Health Care Delivery in NSW

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Health Care in Australia is supposed to be one of the best in the world and equal for all. I wish I could say that's true. The health care system is full of discrimination and malpractice and not everyone is treated equally. Mental Health patients have the hardest time and are discriminated against to no end. It is sadly a common belief amongst health care professionals that people with mental health conditions cannot get physically sick and are therefore not entitled to treatment. The sad flipside to this is that they like to label everything mental health but treatment for Mental Health conditions is not accessible or available either. I would like to draw upon a few examples of which I and others have encountered over the years.

1. a Burst appendix was not treated immediately as the patient had mental health conditions they were not believed about their pain. the patient insisted a Dr check and the surgeon then said she would not have lived until morning if she had not insisted a Dr see her.

2. Gall bladder malfunction: the girl was sick for over a year but could get no treatment from either GPs or the Hospital due to having Mental Health Conditions. By the time the girl finally got help it was almost too late. it was a November removal she would not have seen Christmas.

3. a girl was told by a specialist she tested positive for Lupus but to come back in a year for treatment after they can prove they are not psychiatrically faking it. blood tests -especially ANA ESR and DNA- cannot be faked!!! it is against the medical boards code of conduct to not treat a patient based on mental health especially if there is a test result of a physical condition to prove it is not psyichatric. the medical board calls it unethical and dangerous.

4. two women both had a type of cancer and both got dreadfully sick and went to the hospital. the first got treated immediately whilst the second waited 8 hours in ed. the one who got seen immediately did NOT have mental health concerns whilst the one who waited DID.

5. A girl is having an Asthma attack and I turning blue so is taken to emergency. the emergency Dr see mental health on the file and writes of the attack. the girl cannot breathe. the Dr then proceeds to try and shove Valium down a close airway as the patient is just "faking it". Thank heavens for her regular medical Practice who gave her the steroids and oxygen she needed to reopen her lungs and save her life. These are just five examples of malpractice within the health care system where it is believed mental health patients cannot get physically sick. I myself have to travel 1.5 hour to see a GP as it is the only place I can get physical and mental health treatment. Whilst my GP is brilliant there is only so much she can do with a case like mine if the specialist is been neglectful. without the true copies of test results she cannot treat. this Attitude amongst specialists and GPs makes it life threatening in some cases not only for the patients but hinders the job the genuine Drs do as more often then not a team is needed to manage a case and this cannot happen.

This attitude has a name -discriminatory negligence with a preconceived notion of a patient. People are dying and unable to access health care because of this attitude and an overhaul needs to happen. As I say all the time Yes I have Mental Health but I can get sick too.