Adopting a recovery orientation in our public mental health services involves major challenges - including the challenges of effective policy implementation (“The emperor's edicts stop at the village gate” O'Connor et al, Aust Psych Feb 2012). Come to this workshop and you will find inspiration to engage in new ways with your staff, similar to the ways we are asking clinicians to engage with consumers, ways that can lead to achieving more commitment and vocational fulfilment.

We will look at the proposed Victorian Mental Health Act which promotes a recovery orientation, explore the principles of Engaging Leadership (Alimo-Metcalfe et al) and ask if this fundamental change to the way we lead is the best direction forward if we are to effectively embrace recovery from the organisATIONAL level. The evidence base and principles associated with Engaging Leadership will be introduced and the similarities between Engaging Leadership and Recovery will be explored.

This workshop will be of interest to managers at all levels of mental health organisations, public and NGO’s, novice or experienced. The workshop team is: Tom Callaly: Executive Medical Director, Barwon Health, Geelong; Nick O’Connor: Clinical Director Royal North Shore Ryde Mental Health Service, Northern Sydney Local Health District; Ruth Vine: Chief Psychiatrist, Department of Health, Melbourne, Victoria; Jennifer Black: Program Manager Inpatient Services, Barwon health, Geelong.

Tom Callaly: Executive Medical Director, Barwon Health, Geelong: Chair and introduction. Nick O’Connor: Clinical Director Royal North Shore Ryde Mental Health Service, Northern Sydney Local Health District; The challenges of effective policy implementation. Ruth Vine: Chief Psychiatrist, Department of Health, Melbourne, Victoria: The proposed Victorian Mental Health Act and Recovery Jennifer Black: Program Manager Inpatient Services, Barwon health, Geelong: Engaging Leadership and Recovery.