

CONCLUSION

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In this chapter, our purpose has been to sketch the history of the development of ideas that have been influential in shaping current understandings and practices within the mental health field in Australia. This historical context is characterised by change, as successive generations of interest groups grapple with the multiplicity of factors that surround mental

disorder and complicate its understanding. Each perspective, as it develops, illuminates part of the picture and obscures other parts. In the chapters that follow, we will pursue each of these directions to some degree. We will present as comprehensive and coherent an account of those parts of the mental health picture as possible, in a way that advances knowledge about and for practice for mental health professionals in Australia.