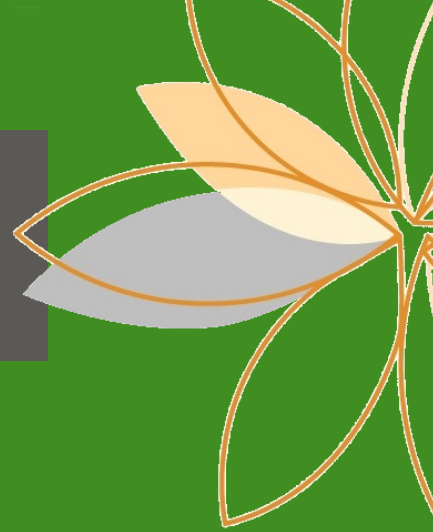

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Succeeding together

OUR STORY



OUR VISION

Australians have the best possible mental health and quality of life.

OUR MISSION

Our core strength is in amplifying the voice of people affected by severe mental illness, their families and friends. We advocate for positive changes in all areas of social and public policy that impact on the quality of life of people affected, as well as families and friends. We create collaborative projects and communities of practice which support each other to be financially viable and deliver effective, quality supports.

OUR WORK

Since 1986, Mental Illness Fellowship Australia (MIFA) has been providing mental health sector leadership to represent the needs and interests of people living with severe mental illness, and their loved ones and carers.

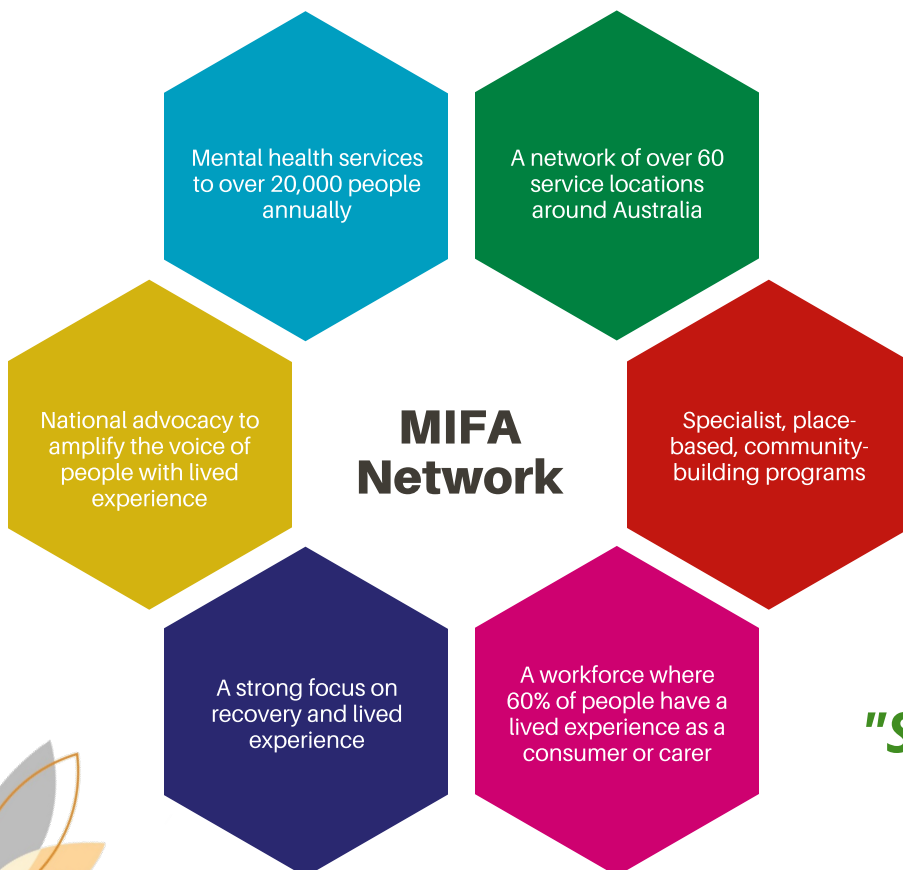


THE MIFA NETWORK

MIFA is a long-standing federation of seven community managed mental health organisations formed in 1986. Our Members are located in numerous States and Territories around Australia. They provide specialist, quality mental health and psychosocial disability supports to individuals, their carers and loved ones.

MIFA works in partnership with our Member organisations to understand the needs and issues for people affected by severe mental illness. This collaboration strengthens our advocacy and the work that we do. We aim to succeed together to cause positive change and enhance the quality of life for everyone affected by severe mental illness in Australia.

The MIFA Network provides a collegiate environment for MIFA Board Members, MIFA Member CEOs and MIFA Central staff to regularly come together to discuss strategic directions, key advocacy messages, mental health reforms, service delivery innovations and strategies to enhance our impact.



OUR MEMBERS



"Succeeding together"

FROM THE CHAIR & THE CEO

This year has seen unprecedented change globally as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. MIFA showed strong leadership during this time of uncertainty and anxiety to ensure that the voices of people living with severe mental health conditions and additional complexities were heard by the Federal Government. MIFA advocated for both public health interventions and community-based psychosocial supports to address the additional vulnerabilities of people living with severe and complex mental health conditions.

MIFA advocated that Australians living with severe and complex mental illness were particularly vulnerable to declining mental and physical health during the COVID-19 crisis. Increased social isolation, heightened psychological distress and changes to essential service delivery related to limiting the spread of COVID-19 risked declining mental health and wellbeing at that time. High prevalence of comorbidities placed people living with severe and complex mental illness at a higher risk of developing COVID-19 complications.

MIFA wrote to the Ministers responsible for Health and the NDIA regarding the safeguards needed during the periods of isolation and uncertainty. We met with the Ministers' staff, Deputy Chief Health Officer, Departmental officers and other Peak Bodies to act on these important issues, and we contributed to the National Mental Health Commissioner's work on the National Pandemic Mental Health Plan.

To assist National Cabinet, MIFA outlined practical solutions to ensure people with severe and complex mental health conditions received timely, appropriate and effective access to services that met their evolving needs during the COVID-19 emergency. We urged National Cabinet to:

- Provide increased flexibility in funding contracts for psychosocial service providers to enable them to respond innovatively to consumer need during the COVID-19 emergency period.
- Ensure continuity of essential support services by:
 - preserving the capacity of community mental health services to respond to mental health crises and support ongoing recovery and wellbeing in the community; and
 - supporting prioritised access to personal protective equipment (PPE) for the frontline mental health workforce, including disability support workers.
- Provide priority access to COVID-19 testing for both the mental health workforce, including disability support workers, and people with psychosocial disability who require face-to-face supports.



Tony Stevenson speaking at the Servier Mental Health Patients Advocacy Forum at the Servier Head Office, Melbourne, in December 2019.

SUCCESSING TOGETHER

- Provide psychosocial service providers capacity through relief payments, not debt, to rebuild the workforce once the COVID-19 pandemic is controlled.

MIFA Member organisations responded extremely well to the changes brought about by the pandemic. Members quickly pivoted their operations by supporting people online and by phone. Practical steps were taken, like ensuring people had access to basic needs such as food, toiletries and supplies, including masks, which were difficult to source. Training in technology and assistance with the costs of technology were provided.

MIFA Member organisations met weekly by videoconference to check in with each other, and share their learnings about online support, personal safety procedures and risk management. MIFA and our peak body partners established weekly video conferences with the Department of Health and the National Disability Insurance Agency to share information about people's experiences, and to identify flexibility in their program delivery. Additional measures were approved to ensure that people were safe, supported in their daily lives, and connected to family and community.

A proud moment for us during the year was our success in obtaining new funding under the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) National Information Program Funding Round 2019-2022 grant. MIFA will receive funding of \$537,000 (excluding GST) over three years, which has ensured further diversification of our funding and supported the ongoing sustainability of MIFA and the work that we do.

We look forward to continuing our collaborative engagement with our MIFA Member organisations, partners, sponsors, supporters and our volunteers to strengthen our collective impact. We thank you all for your support.



“ We support consumer-led services and consumer choice and control. Organisationally, we support a return to a well-resourced recovery-oriented system, where there are processes and incentives to build connections across mental health, health and community services systems. We also need the flexibility to develop responsive and innovative services based on local needs that support mental health and wellbeing.

(Tony Stevenson responding to the National Mental Health Commission 2030 Vision Consultation)

Mick Reid AM
Chair of MIFA

Tony Stevenson
National CEO of MIFA



OUR BOARD

Chair

Bridges Health & Community Care

Mental Health Foundation ACT

Mental Illness Fellowship Australia (NT)

Mental Illness Fellowship of Western Australia

One Door Mental Health
selectability

Skylight Mental Health

Independent Board Member

Mick Reid AM

Camille Woodward to June 2020 &
Antonio Castro from June 2020

Brien Hallett

Bronwyn Russell

Ann White to November 2019 &
Kellie McCrum from November 2019

Anthony Harris

Tom Ryan

Bec Maerschel to February 2020 &
Pat McLeod from February 2020

Rob Ramjan AM

MIFA MEMBER CEOs

Bridges Health & Community Care

Mental Health Foundation ACT

Mental Illness Fellowship Australia (NT)

Mental Illness Fellowship of Western Australia

One Door Mental Health
selectability

Skylight Mental Health

Sharon Sarah

Angie Ingram

Lorraine Davies

Monique Williamson

Kathi Boorman

Debra Burden

Paul Creedon

CO-DESIGN TEAM

Amanda Keaton (NSW): Lived Experience Representative

Anne Barbara (SA): Carer Representative

Arahni Sont (NSW): Carer Representative

Ellen Mugridge (ACT): Service representative

Hayley Harris (WA): Lived Experience Representative

Jenny Smith (NSW): Lived Experience Representative

Norm Wotherspoon (QLD): Lived Experience Representative

Roz Havard (NT): Carer Representative

OUR PEOPLE

OUR SUPPORTERS

Each year MIFA delivers activities in support of our vision, mission and strategic objectives with the generous support of our corporate sponsors.

NUMBER OF
CORPORATE
SPONSORS

4

NUMBER OF
SPONSORED
ACTIVITIES

7

The support of our corporate sponsors this financial year has been invaluable. In a challenging economic climate, MIFA has received consistent financial support from our corporate sponsors to continue delivering our planned activities and projects that benefit people living with mental illness, their families and carers.

We acknowledge and appreciate the ongoing support of Janssen Australia, Lundbeck Australia, Servier and Media Key during the year. With these financial contributions, we are able to continue to play a valuable role in leading mental health sector reform and amplifying the voice of people living with mental illness, their families and carers.

OUR FUNDERS

During the 2019-2020 financial year, MIFA received funding from the following federal departments and agencies:

- Funding from the **Department of Health** for maintaining capacity to advocate for people with mental illness, their families and carers in Australia
- Funding from the **National Disability Insurance Agency** for delivery of an Information, Linkages and Capacity Building National Information Program project from 2019-2022.

WE THANK OUR GENEROUS CORPORATE SPONSORS



SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

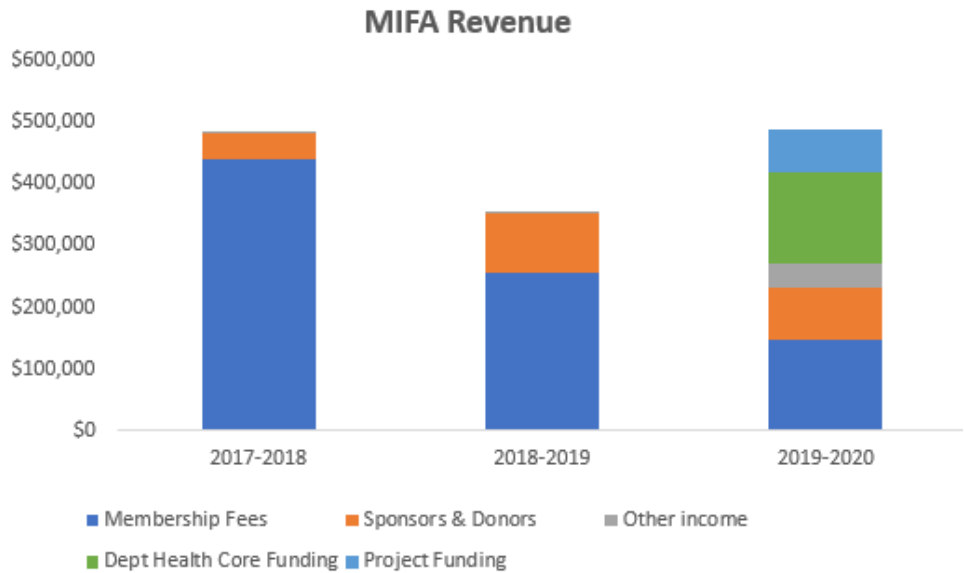
- Advocacy
- MIFA Conference
- National Campaigns
- MiNetworks Program
- Parliamentary Friends
- Professional Development

"Succeeding together"

OUR YEAR IN FOCUS



FINANCIAL GROWTH













KEY ACTIVITIES

		NEW FUNDED INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS	2
FORMAL SUBMISSIONS WRITTEN AND PUBLISHED	4	FORUMS AND ADVISORY MEETINGS ATTENDED	32
NATIONAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS CONDUCTED	2	MEETINGS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS ATTENDED	66
MEDIA INTERVIEWS FOR RAISING AWARENESS	74	NEW EXPERT ADVISORY GROUPS JOINED	5
LETTERS WRITTEN TO GOVERNMENT AND MINISTERS	4	TOTAL REACH ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS	60K

2019-2020

The 2019-2020 financial year highlighted the importance of working together to face emerging challenges and embracing opportunities for innovation and collaboration, both within the MIFA Network and amongst our sector colleagues, partners and sponsors.

During the 2019-2020 financial year we:

-  provided strong leadership and emphasised the need for urgent mental health policy and service responses for people with severe mental illness
-  worked diligently to be a source of information for our MIFA Members, and government and agency colleagues, to understand the impact of the changing service landscape during the COVID-19 pandemic for people with mental illness, their families and carers
-  increased our support to MIFA Members during the COVID-19 pandemic to support their business continuity planning, strategic planning and organisational management during a challenging time
-  continued to build strong relationships with sector partners, Parliamentarians, Federal Government, national agencies, sponsors, researchers, clinicians, consumers and carers to support our advocacy
-  focused on positively influencing public and social policy to improve the lives of people living with mental illness, their families and carers
-  continued to deliver national media campaigns to raise awareness, educate and fight stigma
-  commenced a new national information resources co-design project for people with psychosocial disability funded by the NDIA
-  hosted the inaugural Out From The Mist photography competition, showcasing photographic representations of mental health
-  embraced virtual technologies and virtual event management to stay connected, build stronger partnerships and networks, and provide services remotely
-  delivered key mental health awareness and mental health research events to raise awareness of severe mental illness in the community, to shine a light on lived experience, and to support greater understanding, acceptance, connection and collaboration.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR YEAR

We celebrated many highlights this year at MIFA across our four strategic areas of advocacy, collaboration, sustainability and visibility.

July 2019

- From July to October, MIFA participated as a Delphi Consensus Group member to assist in the development of the SANE Australia National Stigma Report Card survey, *Our Turn to Speak*. Our Turn to Speak is a comprehensive survey of people affected by complex mental health issues, researching their experiences of stigma and discrimination, the results of which will inform our advocacy agenda.
- We strengthened our relationships with Parliamentarians, meeting with the Hon Jason Clare MP (Shadow Minister for Housing and Homelessness) and two of our Parliamentary Friends of Mental Health Convenors, Andrew Wallace MP and Senator Deborah O'Neill.
- MIFA Central was joined by MIFA Member CEOs for a meeting with Graeme Head, the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commissioner, to discuss our concerns with the rollout of the NDIS Quality and Safeguards audit process, the complaints process, and broader quality issues.

August 2019

- We met with the Hon Greg Hunt MP (Minister for Health) and Chief of Staff to Stuart Robert MP (Minister for the NDIS) to build our relationships and strengthen our influence.

September 2019

- On 16 September, we hosted a Parliamentary Friends of Mental Health event at Parliament House, Canberra, in collaboration with SANE Australia. The event was hosted by Andrew Wallace MP, Senator Deborah O'Neill and Senator Rachel Siewert, and welcomed 20 Members of Parliament and Senators to hear about mental health support services for people living with severe and complex mental health issues.
- We met with the Hon Bill Shorten MP (Shadow Minister for Health) and the Hon Emma McBride MP (Shadow Assistant Minister for Mental Health) to brief them on MIFA's advocacy issues.
- MIFA was invited, along with one other mental health organisation, to make a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) about NDIS planning and issues that directly impact people with psychosocial disability.
- MIFA joined with our sector partners Mental Health Australia (MHA) and Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) to advise David Tune AO PSM, the lead of the NDIS Act Review and the NDIS Participant Service Guarantee implementation, on the needs of people with psychosocial disability, as a prelude to our Tune Review joint submission with MHA and CMHA.



We give priority to influencing policy makers, funders, politicians and sponsors to invest in services that make a real difference in people's lives.

October 2019

- MIFA was successfully named as a preferred provider under the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) National Information Program Funding Round 2019-2022 grant. MIFA will receive funding of \$537,000 (excluding GST) over three years for the project.
- MIFA continued our ongoing engagement and collaboration with the NDIA, meeting with NDIA Mental Health Advisor, Gerry Naughtin, to discuss progress with psychosocial disability reforms and the deliberations of the Disability Reform Council to improve the NDIS experience.
- We delivered another successful Mental Health Week awareness campaign through both traditional media and social media platforms, encouraging people to reach out for support when they need it and connect into services.
- During Mental Health Week, we hosted the inaugural Out From The Mist photography exhibition in Brisbane in partnership with Creative Director, Michael Lockwood. We were joined by the Queensland Mental Health Commissioner, Ivan Frkovic, in announcing the competition winners at the Awards Ceremony. The exhibition showcased the lived experience of photographers with mental health issues and severe mental illness.
- We met with Susan Templeman MP about mental health reforms and MIFA's advocacy messages.

November 2019

- We hosted a Biannual MIFA Member Conference in Sydney with representatives of the MIFA Board, the MIFA CEOs Group, sector partners, industry leaders and sponsors.
- We hosted the MIFA Annual General Meeting in Sydney on 12 November and welcomed guest speaker, the Hon Chris Bowen MP (Shadow Minister for Health) to speak about the links between good economic policy and good mental health policy.
- We provided a joint submission with MHA and CMHA to the Tune Review on the NDIS Act and the NDIS Participant Service Guarantee, and MIFA provided evidence to the Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS at the Committee's Hearings in Canberra.
- Following the release of the Productivity Commission's Draft Report on Mental Health in Australia, MIFA engaged with Productivity Commissioner, Dr Stephen King, about further steps to be taken to ensure lasting mental health reforms, with a focus on person-centred care and community-managed mental health supports.
- MIFA participated in the first Psychosocial Support Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting, hosted by the Federal Department of Health. MIFA continues to advise the Department of Health on the transition of people from Commonwealth-funded community mental health programs to either Continuity of Supports or the NDIS.

December 2019

- MIFA represented the interests and needs of people with severe mental illness at the Productivity Commission's public hearing in Brisbane for the Mental Health in Australia Inquiry.
- We commenced discussions about funding and supports for mental health carers with Mental Health Carers Australia.
- Tony Stevenson and Dr Richard Schweizer (Lived Experience Advocate) presented at the Servier Mental Health Patients Advocacy Forum about mental health reforms and our national advocacy.

January 2020

- We completed our submission to the Productivity Commission on the Draft Mental Health in Australia Report, advocating for mental health reforms in the delivery of psychosocial support services for people with severe mental illness through a National Psychosocial Recovery Program.

HIGHLIGHTS

February 2020

- MIFA employed Project Manager, Donna Didlick, to deliver the ILC National Information Program.
- MIFA met with Parliamentary Friends of Mental Health Convenors Andrew Wallace MP, Senator Deborah O'Neill and Senator Rachel Siewert to discuss the Parliamentary Friends of Mental Health events for 2020 (these were later postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic).

March 2020

- MIFA supported the successful delivery of the 2020 Australian Psychosis Symposium in Sydney. The Symposium brought together researchers, academics, service providers, policy advisors, consumers and carers, to hear from world leading experts in the field of cognitive remediation.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we advocated to the NDIA about the need to provide better access to technology for NDIS participants with psychosocial disability to ensure access to online and telehealth-based services. In response to this advocacy, the NDIA introduced a time-limited policy of enabling flexibility in the granting of low-cost Assistive Technology.
- We contributed to the National Mental Health Commission's Forum on Research Initiatives.

April 2020

- We wrote letters to the the Hon Greg Hunt MP (Minister for Health), the Hon Stuart Robert MP (Minister for the NDIS) and the Hon Anne Ruston MP (Minister or Social Services) about meeting the needs of people with severe mental illness during the COVID-19 pandemic and expanding the Coronavirus Supplement to people receiving the Disability Support Pension and Carer Payment.
- From April to June, in our role as Caring Fairly Coalition Member, we supported and promoted the Caring Fairly advocacy campaign to expand the Coronavirus Supplement.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we enhanced our MIFA Member support from April to June, meeting either weekly or fortnightly with MIFA Member CEOs to inform our advocacy, brief CEOs on national and local developments, and provide a forum of collegiate support.

May 2020

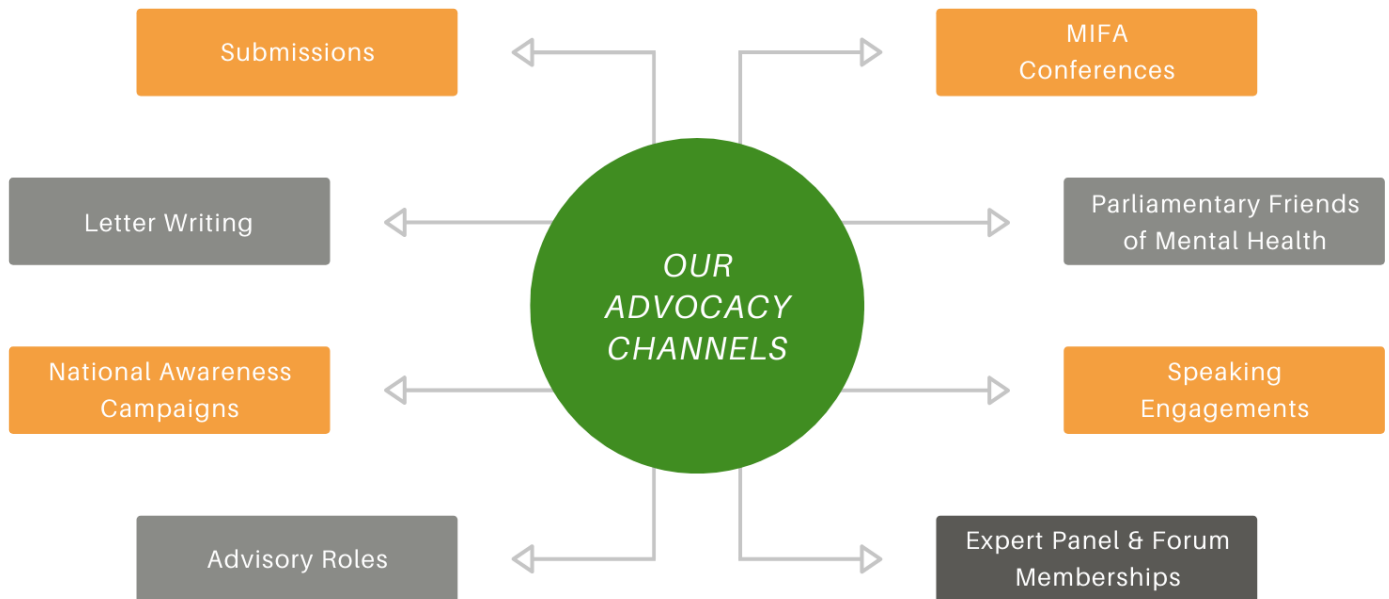
- We contributed three submissions to the National Mental Health Commission's National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Pandemic Response Plan. We also provided input into MHA's sector-wide response to the Pandemic Response Plan.
- We delivered another successful Schizophrenia Awareness Week campaign with the theme "Stay Connected", raising awareness through both traditional media and social media campaigns. We partnered with MIFA Member, One Door Mental Health, to take part in their virtual Symposium, bringing together consumers, carers, mental health workers, clinicians, researchers, sector leaders and partners to celebrate the week and participate in online webinars and presentations.
- We completed a joint submission with MHA and CMHA for the NDIS Workforce Inquiry to the Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS.

June 2020

- We recruited members of our ILC National Information Program Co-design Team to co-design and develop national psychosocial disability information resources.
- Throughout March to June, we advised the Federal Department of Health on National Psychosocial Support (NPS) transition funding. In line with our advocacy, the Department confirmed that mental health funding underspends for 2019-2020 would be automatically carried forward to 2020-2021. This provided our Members with greater funding certainty and flexibility in service delivery.

OUR ADVOCACY

HOW WE INFLUENCE



OUR SUBMISSIONS



NATIONAL FORUMS



EXPERT ADVISORY ROLES

Throughout the year, MIFA represented the needs of people with severe mental illness on a number of expert advisory panels and in national mental health stakeholder forums. MIFA was able to influence national mental health policy through our membership of:

- Mental Health Australia
- the Mental Health Reform Stakeholders Group
- the Mental Health Expert Reference Panel for the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan
- the NDIA Working Group for Psychosocial Services
- the Primary Health Network Advisory Panel Forum
- the Primary Health Network and National Mental Health Stakeholders Roundtable
- the Optimising Psychosocial Support Project.

Throughout the year, MIFA was invited to join the following new expert advisory panels and national mental health stakeholder forums:

- the National Mental Health Commission Mental Health Response to COVID-19 Stakeholders Group
- the National Mental Health Commission Research Forum
- the Federal Department of Health Psychosocial Sector Consultation for COVID-19 Response Group
- the NDIA Psychosocial Sector Consultation for COVID-19 Response Group
- the NDIA Mental Health Working Group – Stakeholder Reference Group
- the Caring Fairly Consortium
- the Labor Disability Summit.

Some of these forums arose in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to address the unique needs and issues of people with severe mental illness and psychosocial disability. In these forums, MIFA's advocacy focused on the pandemic response and the measures needed to support people with mental illness and their families to remain safe and well in the community.

LIVED EXPERIENCE FORUMS

Throughout the year, MIFA had the privilege of collaborating and liaising with the following lived experience forums, enriching and strengthening our understanding of advocacy issues:

- MIFA's own ILC National Information Program Co-Design Team
- Consumer and Carer Forums through the MIFA Network of Member organisations
- National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum
- SANE Australia Lived Experience Forum and Friends, Family and Carers Forum
- Mental Health Families and Carers Roundtable
- the Caring Fairly Coalition.

OUR ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS

A fundamental principle of our advocacy is that the needs and experiences of those with a lived experience of mental health issues and their carers is reflected in national mental health policy, commissioning of services, and broader social structures and attitudes.

To achieve this, we strengthened partnerships and worked collaboratively to speak with one voice as a sector on matters of mental health reform, with the voice of lived experience at the centre of our work. With this focus, we successfully influenced real change and policy reforms to improve people's lives.

Enhancing Psychosocial Supports

MIFA embraced opportunities to advocate for improved NDIS psychosocial supports

Submissions to the Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS

In September 2019, MIFA prepared a [submission](#) for the Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS Inquiry on NDIS Planning. We spoke to the need to enhance the experience and expertise of planners to address the unique needs and barriers of people with psychosocial disability and complex needs. We highlighted the need for enhanced training and professional development for planners in developing plans to ensure they are appropriate, responsive and impactful.

In May 2020, MIFA, MHA and CMHA prepared a [joint submission](#) for the Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS Inquiry into the NDIS Workforce. We highlighted the importance of developing a sustainable and appropriately qualified psychosocial disability workforce to deliver recovery-oriented, trauma informed and culturally responsive supports for people with psychosocial disability and their carers.

The Tune Review

In September 2019, MIFA collaborated with MHA and CMHA to speak with David Tune AO PSM, independent expert and lead of the review of the NDIS Act 2013 (Cth) and the implementation of the NDIS Participant Service Guarantee. David Tune was tasked with reviewing aspects of the NDIS legislation that could be changed to support a streamlined approach to NDIS access, planning and review processes. MIFA provided advice about legislative and service system changes that would support the needs of NDIS participants with psychosocial disability.

In October, MIFA, MHA and CMHA wrote a [joint submission](#) to the Tune Review. We made recommendations about necessary changes to the NDIS legislation and rules, and provided feedback about steps the NDIA can take to support the implementation of the new Participant Service Guarantee.

As we expected, the Tune Review found that more work needs to be done to enhance existing systems, services, decision-making and the overall experience of the Scheme for NDIS participants, families and carers. Whilst we wait for the Government response to the Tune Review, MIFA will continue to work with our colleagues at the NDIA to improve NDIS policy and processes for participants and service providers.

Nous Group Evaluation on NDIS access for people with psychosocial disability

Nous Group was engaged by the Department of Social Services to provide a report on access to the NDIS for people with psychosocial disabilities. Nous Group are exploring why rates of ineligibility for the NDIS are higher for people with psychosocial disabilities than for those with other types of disabilities. MIFA contributed to this consultation process in October 2019 and will continue to provide advice about the unique needs and barriers to accessing the NDIS for people with psychosocial disability.

**We have
successfully
influenced NDIA
policy reform**

Enhancing Psychosocial Supports



Using our influence to support funding for Assistive Technology

When the COVID-19 pandemic began to unfold in March 2020, MIFA worked very closely with our MIFA CEOs Group to understand the impacts of the pandemic on NDIS supports for people with psychosocial disability. Early on, it became clear that the move to telehealth services and online supports was making it more difficult for many people with psychosocial disability to access services where they did not own a personal device (such as a smartphone, tablet or laptop) or where they did not have enough internet data (or the ability to pay for increased data usage). This meant that a large percentage of NDIS participants with psychosocial disability were not able to access the telehealth and online services that were being offered by the NDIA and other service providers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MIFA was concerned that without redress, this lack of access to technology would create a digital divide for people with psychosocial disability and lead to further marginalisation and reduced access to essential services. MIFA contacted our colleagues at the NDIA and advocated for the need to provide additional funded supports for NDIS participants to enable them to use telehealth and online support options. As part of this advocacy, MIFA also identified the need to support the development of workforce capacity to enable service providers to invest in telephone and online supports, including investment in service model development, systems upgrades, and staff training and professional development.

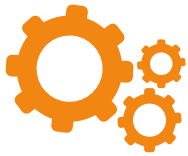
In response to this advocacy, the NDIA introduced a time-limited policy (in place until September 2020) of enabling flexibility in the granting of low-cost Assistive Technology. This enabled participants to use their NDIS funding to purchase a personal device, provided it satisfied all six Assistive Technology Criteria. This policy change enabled participants to purchase a device that was necessary for them to continue receiving supports and services during the COVID-19 pandemic, whilst maintaining physical distancing requirements.

Implementation of the Psychosocial Recovery Coach role

In early 2020, MIFA was advised that a new Psychosocial Recovery Coach role for NDIS participants with psychosocial disability would be introduced from 1 July 2020. In May 2020, the Federal Department of Social Services and the NDIA established a Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) of the Mental Health Working Group and MIFA joined as a member to represent the interests of people with psychosocial disability. Membership of the SRG includes people and carers with lived experience, peak bodies, the Commonwealth, and state and territory governments. Two key activities of the SRG are to focus on the implementation of the Psychosocial Recovery Coach role and to develop an NDIS Psychosocial Disability Recovery Framework by 2021.

Whilst MIFA was supportive of the introduction of the Psychosocial Recovery Coach role, we identified the need to develop key principles for the implementation of this new role to ensure recovery-oriented care can thrive in the NDIS. In June 2020, we provided the SRG with a Briefing Paper outlining our concerns, key principles and a list of recommendations to be considered. MIFA will continue to monitor the implementation of the Psychosocial Recovery Coach role and provide advice to the SRG in the 2020-2021 financial year.

We also eagerly await the development of the NDIS Psychosocial Disability Recovery Framework in late 2020 and look forward to participating in this important process. MIFA will be engaging with our MIFA CEOs Group and feeding back key principles and recommendations to the SRG.



Mental Health Reform Advocacy

The Mental Health in Australia Productivity Commission Inquiry

A once in a generation opportunity for reform

One of the highlights of this financial year has been engaging with the Productivity Commission throughout the Commission's Mental Health in Australia Inquiry to improve social and economic participation. In April 2019, we provided our initial submission to the Productivity Commission in response to the terms of reference of the Mental Health in Australia Inquiry. In response to this round of submissions, the Productivity Commission produced a Draft Report in late October 2019 for feedback and consultation.

As part of our strategy to influence, we engaged with Productivity Commissioner, Dr Stephen King, to highlight key mental health reform issues and concepts that required further refinement in the Commission's Final Report. Dr King attended our MIFA Biannual Conference in November 2019 to present key findings and concepts to the MIFA Network and to hear from us about where we thought the Commission could benefit from shifts in thinking.

At the November 2019 MIFA Biannual Conference we:

- highlighted the importance of a person-centred mental health system, where the individual and what they need is at the centre of all supports and services
- explained the importance of identifying and recognising a visible community-managed mental health sector that is recognised in the Commission's Final Report
- spoke about the stepped care system model put forward by the Commission and where community-managed mental health supports fit in a holistic and integrated systems approach
- urged the Commissioner to consider recommending the development of a National Psychosocial Recovery Program for all Australians with psychosocial disability and severe mental illness to address the fragmented, siloed and complex approach to mental health service delivery that currently exists.



Dr Stephen King presenting to our MIFA Conference attendees about the stepped care model in the Commission's Draft Report.

In December 2019 we also took the opportunity to present these issues and recommendations to the Productivity Commission at the Brisbane public hearing for the Mental Health in Australia Inquiry.

Following this consultation process, we submitted our formal written response to the Draft Report with a further submission to the Productivity Commission in January 2020. In this submission, we reiterated the importance of developing a person-centred mental health system in Australia that understands the needs of people living with severe mental illness and psychosocial disability. We made recommendations about how psychosocial support services need to be planned, commissioned, funded and delivered, and the importance of developing and funding a National Psychosocial Recovery Program for people receiving mental health supports outside of the NDIS.

In May 2020, we engaged with Dr King again at the One Door Mental Health e-Symposium held during Schizophrenia Awareness Week. In this forum, he advised that the Productivity Commission would be making recommendations about the need for a person-centred mental health system and the recognition and development of the community-managed mental health sector as an essential component of the Australian mental health system. We will continue to promote our advocacy messages as we wait for the release of the Final Report by Government in late 2020.



Mental Health Reform Advocacy

MIFA embraced opportunities to work collaboratively with the Department of Health to improve mental health supports

MIFA contributed to the mental health reform process during the year through our membership of key Department of Health stakeholder advisory groups. In all of these forums, MIFA represented the unique needs and interests of people living with severe mental illness, their families and carers.

Primary Health Network (PHN) Advisory Panel

We contributed input into the PHN Policy and Commissioning Guidelines. We continued to raise issues around PHN commissioning processes, transparency and accountability with the Department.

Psychosocial Support Stakeholder Advisory Group

We contributed to input on the key principles underpinning a future psychosocial program for people outside of the NDIS, what services are needed, how to support people to test their NDIS access eligibility, and how to better integrate and coordinate access to services.

Nous Group Psychosocial Support Evaluation Program Advisory Group

Nous Group was engaged by the Department of Health to evaluate the national psychosocial support programs (National Psychosocial Support Measure (NPS-M) and Continuity of Supports (CoS)). The evaluation asks what psychosocial support should look like in the future, and measures how appropriate, effective, efficient and impactful the NPS-M and CoS programs have been. Initial meetings began in April 2020 where the Advisory Group discussed the scope and design of the evaluation program. MIFA looks forward to contributing our knowledge and expertise to this evaluation during the 2020-2021 financial year.

NPS Transition Funding Advocacy

Throughout the year, MIFA has assisted the Department of Health with keeping track of the transition of people from Commonwealth-funded community mental health programs to either CoS or the NDIS. In early 2020, we commenced discussions with the Department of Health about carrying forward funding underspends from the 2019-2020 financial year to enhance supports to individuals transitioning and provide service providers with funding certainty.

Our discussions progressed during the fourth quarter of the financial year and the Department of Health confirmed that mental health funding underspends for 2019-2020 (including psychosocial support programs) would be automatically carried forward to 2020-2021. This built on changes announced by Government permitting PHNs to move funds between Continuity of Support and transition support programs to more flexibly address consumer needs and account for regional variation in consumer transition rates.

These arrangements provided PHNs with greater funding certainty to manage the transition of remaining consumers to either CoS or the NDIS. Importantly, this also provided greater funding certainty for our MIFA Member organisations in the 2020-2021 financial year. MIFA continues to advocate that the Department consider a future roll-up of CoS, NPS-M and NPS-T funding.

“ Lived experience is at the heart of our work. We work with individuals, families and carers to understand their mental health recovery journeys and what matters to them. Their experiences inform our advocacy. ”

Our COVID-19 Mental Health Reform Advocacy

During the COVID-19 pandemic, MIFA's advocacy focused on the crisis and the measures needed to support people with mental illness, their families and carers to remain safe and well in the community. To understand the emerging issues and impacts, we increased our engagement and collaboration with our MIFA Member CEOs, providing collegiate support to them in the process.

In late March 2020, MIFA and our Member CEOs started connecting weekly via videoconference to share information about emerging issues, challenges and practical responses to the COVID-19 pandemic to inform our advocacy strategy. The weekly MIFA CEOs videoconferences enabled MIFA to stay abreast of the issues impacting service delivery and the people supported by our MIFA Member organisations.

As the pandemic began to unfold, it became clear that people with severe mental illness were a vulnerable population group that were at risk of increased isolation from supports and community, stress and anxiety, physical health vulnerabilities and financial hardship. MIFA advised the National Mental Health Commission (NMHC), the Disability Reform Council, the NDIA, the Department of Health and the Department of Social Services about the issues and impacts for people with severe mental illness through our membership on expert advisory panels and stakeholder forums, providing briefing papers that outlined key issues to be addressed each week to improve supports.

Many new stakeholder forums were created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to address the mental health needs of Australians during the crisis. These included the NMHC Mental Health Response to COVID-19 Stakeholder Group, the Federal Department of Health Psychosocial Sector Consultation for COVID-19 Response Group and the NDIA Psychosocial Sector Consultation for COVID-19 Response Group. These advisory groups provided MIFA with a unique opportunity to elevate the issues for people affected by severe and complex mental illness and to offer practical solutions to support policy changes at the national level.

To strengthen this advocacy, MIFA collaborated with sector partners MHA and CMHA to provide a united voice on COVID-19 pandemic advocacy issues in these forums. We emphasised the need to:

- increase flexibility in funding contracts to ensure service providers could respond innovatively
- provide prioritised access to personal protective equipment and testing for the direct service provision workforce and people with psychosocial disability accessing face-to-face supports
- ensure the NGO mental health sector is financially viable through investments, not debt provisions
- ensure that the most vulnerable people have access to assisted technology, training and data to access digitalised service provision when face-to-face supports are limited
- ensure that carers and Disability Support Pensioners have access to a pandemic-related supplement and support payments.

In April 2020, MIFA, MHA and CMHA wrote joint advocacy letters to Ministers on a number of key issues. We wrote to:

- the Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister of Health, about the importance of meeting the needs of people with severe and complex mental illness during the COVID-19 pandemic
- the Hon Anne Ruston MP, Minister of Social Services, about the need for a Carer Supplement for the Disability Support Pension and the Carer Payment to support the needs of carers during the COVID-19 pandemic
- the Hon Stuart Robert MP, Minister for the NDIS, about issues being considered by the Disability Reform Council during the COVID-19 pandemic and necessary changes to NDIA policy.

ADVOCACY
LETTERS TO
MINISTERS

3

COVID-19
MENTAL
HEALTH
ADVISORY
GROUPS
JOINED

3



COVID-19 Mental Health Reform Advocacy



Our input into the National Mental Health & Wellbeing Pandemic Response Plan

In May 2020, the National Mental Health Commission (NMHC) developed a National Mental Health and Wellbeing Pandemic Response Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Response Plan was presented to the Australian Government on 8 May 2020 and was considered by the Prime Minister and Cabinet, along with the States and Territories. Through our connections with the NMHC, we were able to provide recommendations to the Prime Minister and Cabinet, along with other mental health sector colleagues, about the high-level responses required to support the needs of people with severe mental illness, their families and carers during the unprecedented pandemic event.

MIFA was supportive of the Response Plan and its purpose. The three core objectives of the Response Plan are to:

- meet the mental health and wellbeing needs of all Australians to reduce negative impacts of the pandemic in the short and long-term
- outline core principles and priority areas to inform jurisdictions as they respond to the challenges of COVID-19, including as restrictions ease, to balance national consistency with flexibility for locally-appropriate community-based responses and solutions and ensuring that any risks posed by relaxation of restrictions are assessed and responded to
- define governance, coordination and implementation requirements including data collection and sharing across jurisdictions to facilitate informed planning and decision making.

MIFA wrote three Briefing Papers with reference to short-term and longer-term considerations in the development of an effective and responsive mental health pandemic response plan. These were:

- an initial briefing paper responding to the immediate questions posed by the NMHC in the development of the response plan
- a secondary briefing paper providing the principles that need to be considered to support the immediate needs of people with mental health conditions during a pandemic like COVID-19
- a final briefing paper providing the elements of a mental health system that need to be implemented post-pandemic to support the needs of people with severe and complex mental illness.

MIFA also contributed to the response submitted by MHA on behalf of their members. The MHA submission was built on the agreed directions embodied in *Charter 2020: Time to Fix Mental Health*, noting that this was already a well-informed platform for the sector.

MIFA will continue to collaborate with the NMHC to ensure that the appropriate structures are in place so that service systems can be responsive to the needs of people with severe and complex mental illness should we experience further lockdowns or interruptions to service delivery.

SPEAKING WITH A UNITED VOICE

*During the pandemic we have worked diligently with our sector colleagues and partners to provide a united voice to Government in the face of uncertainty and changing service delivery. We have strengthened our collaboration, listened and understood the issues, and worked together to effect change that has a real impact for people affected by severe mental illness. **We have been stronger together.***

COVID-19 Mental Health Reform Advocacy

The Caring Fairly Carers Supplement Campaign



caringfairly

RIGHTS. RECOGNITION. REFORM.

MIFA is a Steering Group Member of the Caring Fairly Campaign.

The Campaign advocates for the rights of unpaid carers across Australia.

In May 2020, Caring Fairly conducted a survey to capture unpaid carers' experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic. This survey collected information about the impact of the pandemic on carers' work and income, expenses, health and wellbeing, and access to services and supports.

MIFA shared this survey with our MIFA Members and networks to support the campaign and to enhance the survey's reach and impact. We wanted to ensure that carers with a lived experience of mental illness had an opportunity to have their say.

The survey revealed that the COVID-19 pandemic was having a huge impact on unpaid carers in many ways. These impacts included:

- a loss of support services for the person they care for and a loss of supports for themselves
- an increase in the amount of time spent on unpaid care tasks
- a deterioration in carers' mental health and wellbeing
- increased stress in their caring role
- a loss of some or all of their regular income
- losing their job.

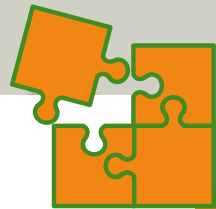
In response to these results, Caring Fairly launched a campaign to increase the Carers Payment to support carers at a time of significant financial stress. MIFA wrote to the Minister of Social Services, the Hon Anne Ruston MP, supporting the increase in the Carers Payment. We also promoted the Caring Fairly social media campaign to raise awareness about the issue and encourage support for change.

During Schizophrenia Awareness Week in May 2020, we organised for members of the Caring Fairly Campaign to speak via webinar about carers' experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic at the One Door Mental Health e-Symposium. Campaign Manager, Gemma Muir, shared the results of the carers survey and Dawn, a mental health carer who supports a loved one living with schizophrenia, shared her story about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased financial pressures.

In June 2020, the Caring Fairly Campaign launched a petition to add a Coronavirus Supplement to the Carer Payment. The petition called for the Carer Payment to be increased to help ease the financial burden of carers during challenging and uncertain times. MIFA signed the petition and shared it with our MIFA Members and networks to help promote support.

In the Caring Fairly COVID-19 carers survey, 60% of carers said they had lost supports for the person they care for due to COVID-19 and 44% had needed to spend more time on unpaid care than before the pandemic.

There are an estimated 240,000 mental health carers in Australia.



Strengthening Our Collective Impact

This year, MIFA and our sector partners have enhanced our sector collaboration to strengthen our collective impact during a time of significant mental health reform. There are ambitious reforms ahead and we are standing strong together as a sector.

Mental Health Australia Forums

MIFA has been an active member of Mental Health Australia throughout the year. The Mental Health Australia Forums have enabled us to engage with our sector colleagues to advocate strongly for the needs and interests of people living with severe mental illness, their families and carers.

- In November 2019 and March 2020, MIFA attended Mental Health Australia's Members Policy Forums in Canberra. The focus of these discussions was the Productivity Commission Mental Health in Australia Inquiry and the importance of working together and standing united as a mental health sector to promote our broad interests.
- In April 2020, MHA commenced a series of Mini Members Policy Forums held via webinar to enable MHA Members to stay connected and discuss emerging issues during the COVID-19 pandemic. These forums included discussions about the NMHC Mental Health and Wellbeing Pandemic Response Plan, racism and mental health, and strategies to sustain and improve community mental health service delivery for people with complex and serious mental illness during the pandemic.

MIFA signs Charter 2020: Time to Fix Mental Health

In October 2019, MIFA became a signatory to Mental Health Australia's *Charter 2020: Time to Fix Mental Health*. Through this Charter, we united as a sector to fix our mental health system and agreed to a Consensus Statement that outlines nine key areas of mental health reform. The Productivity Commission's Mental Health in Australia inquiry created the impetus for change and we agreed to work together to urge Government to implement real and lasting mental health reforms in Australia.

“ We know that investing in mental health provides substantial personal and economic benefits. We know what to do. It's time to fix mental health. ”

Tony Stevenson
(bottom left), MIFA's
National CEO,
attending the 2020
Charter: Time to Fix
Mental Health
launch with sector
colleagues in
Canberra
(October 2019).



Responding to Change

Embracing new methods of engagement

Our methods of engagement in national leadership activities for mental health evolved in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic restricted MIFA's engagement in national leadership activities in person, with various travel restrictions put in place around the country. However, MIFA embraced online and virtual collaboration tools to ensure our engagement with key partners and stakeholders could continue, despite the COVID-19 travel restrictions.

In many cases, the online and virtual methods of engagement enabled MIFA to engage more rapidly with key stakeholders and connect more regularly with online national leadership activities. Unlike with face-to-face engagement, many of the online national leadership activities occurred weekly or fortnightly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing MIFA to regularly provide up-to-date information to decision-makers. Whilst we embraced these changes and the opportunity to collaborate more extensively with colleagues from across Australia through online forums and webinars, we are looking forward to working with our colleagues in person again in the near future.

This online engagement extended to our MIFA Member organisations. At the height of the COVID-19 lockdowns, we shifted from meeting every six weeks via teleconference to meeting weekly via videoconference. This offered a strong source of connection with our MIFA Member CEOs, with many people from the MIFA Network working from home. This enabled us to get weekly updates from our MIFA CEOs about the impacts of the pandemic on service delivery and the challenges that individuals, families and carers were facing in accessing services.

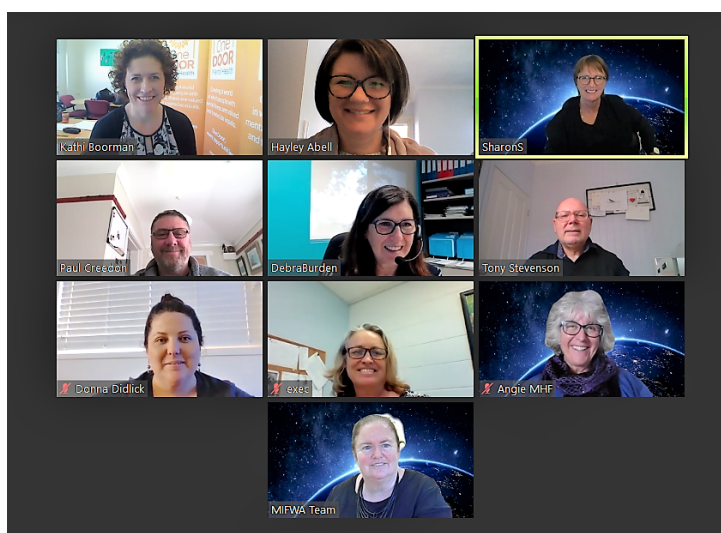
MIFA thanks the MIFA CEOs and their Executive Teams for working with us during the pandemic to understand the issues impacting MIFA Member organisations and the people they support every day as they responded to the complexities of the COVID-19 pandemic. The information, data and stories that were shared with us informed our advocacy to Government, the NMHC, the Disability Reform Council and the NDIA to support changes to policy and service delivery at the national level.

“ For me personally, leading an organisation through that level of uncharted territory was at times scary. Liaising with MIFA and the connection to other organisations provided, as usual, a wealth of shared knowledge and strategy. It gave me real peace of mind. (A MIFA Member CEO)

What our MIFA CEOs valued:

- Regular updates and advice
- MIFA's advocacy
- Access to decision-makers
- Collegiate peer support
- Forum to share concerns
- Ability to share solutions

“ Peer support and an opportunity to reflect. (A MIFA Member CEO)



Holding our weekly MIFA CEOs Group meetings via videoconference.

PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDS

PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDS OF MENTAL HEALTH

Parliamentary Friends of Mental Health is a vital partnership of elected Members and Senators, which focuses on the needs and interests of people affected by mental illness. The Parliamentary Friends of Mental Health meet once or twice a year to hear directly from consumers, carers, families and friends, as well as service providers, about the impacts of mental illness on people's lives. This provides an opportunity for parliamentarians to hear from mental health experts whom they may rarely meet.

On 16 September 2019, MIFA and SANE Australia convened a Parliamentary Friends of Mental Health (PFMH) event hosted by PFMH convenors Andrew Wallace MP, Senator Deborah O'Neill and Senator Rachel Siewert at Parliament House, Canberra. We were joined by 20 Members of Parliament and Senators, and special guests, including MIFA Sponsors and the Danish Ambassador, His Excellency Tom Nørring, in a discussion about mental health support services for people living with severe and complex mental health issues.

The event included presentations from guest speakers with lived experience of mental illness about their experiences of accessing mental health systems. There was an opportunity for speakers to share their past challenges in accessing services and offer their insights about future opportunities to better meet the needs of people with lived experience of mental illness.

Dr Richard Schweizer spoke about his experience of living with schizophrenia, his recovery journey and the importance of his family, friends and employment in his recovery. He spoke about the fragmented mental health system, the lack of funding overall for mental health services, and how important it is for governments to work together at all levels to provide integrated mental health services.

“ I believe that when someone is sick, they need love and hope. Love is what holds people together. Hope is what keeps you going. Love is what encourages people to take steps to help you, even if they don't quite know what is wrong. Hope is the thing that gets you up every morning to face the next day. (Dr Richard Schweizer)

We also heard video stories from SANE Australia Peer Ambassadors who shared about their mental health journeys, and their experiences of mental health services and stigma.

Our special thanks go to Dr Michelle Blanchard, SANE Australia, for her assistance in co-hosting this event, and to our generous sponsors, Janssen Australia and Lundbeck Australia, for their ongoing financial support.

Delivered in partnership with
SANE Australia

SANE
AUSTRALIA

Generously supported by
Janssen Australia and Lundbeck Australia

janssen
PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES
OF Johnson & Johnson

Lundbeck 

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

During 2019-2020, MIFA delivered two national media campaigns to raise awareness and break down mental health stigma. Our Mental Health Week 2019 and Schizophrenia Awareness Week 2020 campaigns raised awareness of mental illness through a broad use of traditional media and social media.

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2019

Mental Health Week was held from 5 to 13 October 2019, with World Mental Health Day being celebrated on 10 October. Over the course of Mental Health Week, Tony Stevenson and other MIFA CEOs undertook 35 radio interviews. MIFA's campaign was publicised to over 600 print media outlets across every state and territory, at a national, metropolitan, suburban and regional level, as well as to electronic and social media.

The national campaign urged the Federal Government to provide supports through a National Psychosocial Recovery Program to the 225,000 Australians with severe and complex mental illness who are not eligible for supports under the NDIS. MIFA urged government to provide an additional \$500 million per year nationally to support individuals with severe and complex mental illness to enable the delivery of a national program of community-based, recovery-oriented mental health supports.

RADIO INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED	35	MEDIA RELEASES ISSUED	600+	SOCIAL MEDIA REACH	2,500
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SCHIZOPHRENIA AWARENESS WEEK 2020

This year, Schizophrenia Awareness Week was held from 17 to 24 May in 2020. The theme for 2020 was "Stay Connected", encouraging individuals, families and carers to stay connected during the COVID-19 pandemic and to reach out for support. MIFA's campaign was publicised to over 580 print media outlets across every state and territory, at a national, metropolitan, suburban and regional level. Tony Stevenson and other MIFA CEOs undertook 55 radio interviews in the lead up to Schizophrenia Awareness Week.

The campaign urged people living with schizophrenia to reach out, stay connected and get the help they need. MIFA launched a targeted social media campaign with digital assets that were co-designed with the assistance of MIFWA. The social media content shared information about schizophrenia, dispelled common myths, and provided information about how to reach out for support and stay connected.

RADIO INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED	55	MEDIA RELEASES ISSUED	580+	SOCIAL MEDIA REACH	14,150
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MIFA's national media campaigns are delivered in partnership with [Media Key](#). We thank Ross Woodward, Managing Director of Media Key, for his generous support.



WORKING TOGETHER

MIFA CONFERENCES

Each year MIFA hosts two conferences for MIFA Board Members and CEOs, strategic partners, industry colleagues, sponsors and researchers. These conferences bring members of the MIFA federation together to progress strategic goals, consolidate key advocacy messages and strengthen partnerships through ongoing collaboration. These sessions enrich our understanding of systemic and operational issues that MIFA Member organisations are managing, and provide a platform to discuss innovations, sustainability, growth, advocacy and impact.

MIFA successfully delivered one MIFA Conference during the 2019-2020 financial year. The November 2019 MIFA Conference and Annual General Meeting were held in Sydney from 12 to 13 November 2019. Due to the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic, MIFA postponed our face-to-face MIFA Conference that was scheduled to take place in Townsville in April 2020.

MIFA November 2019 Conference | Sydney

In November 2019, we invited many highly respected colleagues from the non-government and government sectors to discuss the strategic advocacy priorities for MIFA in the context of national mental health reform. Strategic discussions focused on psychosocial supports within the NDIS and outside of the NDIS, and the mental health reform agenda in the context of the Productivity Commission's Draft Report on Mental Health in Australia.

During the Conference, we collaborated with colleagues from Mental Health Australia, Community Mental Health Australia, the NDIA, the Federal Department of Social Services and the Federal Department of Health. We were also privileged to receive an update on the Survey of High Impact Psychosis (SHIP) Project from Winthrop Professor Vera A. Morgan, Head of the Neuropsychiatric Epidemiology Research Unit at the University of Western Australia.

During the Conference we advocated to our colleagues about:

- the need to optimise the NDIS experience for people with psychosocial disability receiving supports funded by the NDIS
- continuity of support for individuals receiving psychosocial support services outside of the NDIS, including consolidating future plans for national psychosocial support programs like Continuity of Support and the National Psychosocial Support Measure
- the need to improve PHN planning, commissioning, collaboration and engagement with providers.

FOCUS OF NOVEMBER CONFERENCE STRATEGIC DISCUSSIONS...

NATIONAL
MENTAL HEALTH
REFORMS

PRODUCTIVITY
COMMISSION
DRAFT REPORT:
MENTAL HEALTH
IN AUSTRALIA

PSYCHOSOCIAL
SUPPORTS IN
AND OUTSIDE
OF THE NDIS

MIFA'S
STRATEGIC
DIRECTIONS

MIFA'S NATIONAL
PSYCHOSOCIAL
DISABILITY
INFORMATION
PROGRAM

On the second day of the Conference, we were fortunate to have Productivity Commissioner, Dr Stephen King, attend as a special guest to review and workshop the Productivity Commission's Draft Report and recommendations from the Mental Health in Australia Inquiry. The workshop provided an opportunity for the MIFA network to address gaps and areas of concern in the Draft Report and to provide feedback about where further refinement is needed to better represent the needs and interests of people affected by severe mental illness.

We spoke to Dr King about the importance of identifying the community mental health sector as an integral part of Australia's mental health system in the delivery of psychosocial supports in the community. This included making changes to the Stepped Care Model to recognise the importance of the role played by the community mental health sector in addressing the social determinants of mental illness and keeping people well in the community through a holistic, person-centred approach to mental health care.



Left to right: Monique Williamson (CEO, MIFWA), Debra Burden (CEO, selectability), Dr Stephen King (Commissioner, Australian Productivity Commission), Tom Ryan (Board President, selectability), Mick Reid AM (MIFA Board Chair) at the November Conference in Sydney.

This year, with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the MIFA Board agreed to postpone the April 2020 MIFA Conference. We are planning to hold the next MIFA face-to-face Conference in April 2020, travel restrictions permitting.

MIFA'S 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MIFA held its 2019 Annual General Meeting on 12 November 2020 at the Mercure Sydney. Following the formal matters of the evening, attendees heard from guest speaker the Hon Chris Bowen MP, Shadow Minister for Health, about the intersection between good economic policy and good mental health policy.

We were joined by special guests the Hon Emma McBride MP, Shadow Assistant Minister for Mental Health, and Dr Stephen King, Productivity Commissioner. We were thrilled to also be joined by representatives from our corporate sponsors - Janssen Australia, Lundbeck Australia and Servier Pharmaceuticals - and colleagues from the National Mental Health Commission, the Department of Health, the Department of Social Services, Mental Health Australia and Community Mental Health Australia. The evening enabled us to celebrate the achievements of the year and strengthen our sector partnerships.

MEMBER SUPPORT & ENGAGEMENT

To support our MIFA Member organisations, MIFA facilitated 22 MIFA CEOs Group Meetings via teleconference and videoconference this year, bringing together CEOs from our MIFA Member organisations to collaborate, plan and discuss key sector issues. We also coordinated and hosted 10 MIFA Community of Practice meetings in the fields of Service Delivery and Human Resources, Finance and Information and Communications Technology, to enable MIFA colleagues to share ideas, information, skills and business solutions. In total, MIFA coordinated and delivered 25 MIFA Member engagement activities this year.

TOTAL NUMBER OF MIFA MEMBER ENGAGEMENTS HELD	25
NUMBER OF MIFA CEO'S GROUP MEETINGS HELD	22
NUMBER OF COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE MEETINGS HELD	10

ONE DOOR MENTAL HEALTH E-SYMPOSIUM

This year, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, One Door Mental Health (our New South Wales MIFA Member) hosted an online Symposium during Schizophrenia Awareness Week in May 2020.

e-Symposium Snapshot

708 guests
1,873 session tickets
12 online sessions
95% of attendees would participate in another online event

During the week, One Door Mental Health, MIFA, guest speakers and partners hosted interactive webinars that connected professionals, carers and consumers. The e-Symposium promoted the Schizophrenia Awareness Week *Stay Connected* theme. Together we busted myths, discussed new ways of being connected, promoted help-seeking for those affected by schizophrenia in our community, and heard sector updates from leading professionals. In a time when physical distancing has been essential, this forum enabled us to promote the importance of fostering connection and inclusion in our community.

Guest speakers included the Honourable Bronwyn Taylor MLC (NSW Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women), Catherine Lourey (NSW Mental Health Commissioner), Dr Anne Honey (the University of Sydney), Dr Richard Schweizer (One Door Mental Health and Consumer Advocate), Professor Pat McGorry (Orygen) and Dr Stephen King (Productivity Commission).

MIFA hosted four presentations during the week:

- Donna Didlick, ILC Program Manager, delivered a Zoom webinar about MIFA's ILC National Information Project, providing information about our co-design process and how consumers are being engaged in the development of national information products for people with psychosocial disability, their families and carers
- Dr Frances Dark, Director of the Rehabilitation Academic Clinical Unit for Metro South Mental Health Services, delivered a Zoom presentation about psychosis, providing general information to consumers and carers about psychosis and its treatment
- MIFA partner, Caring Fairly, delivered a Zoom webinar to share the results of their survey on the impacts of COVID-19 on carers, and we heard from mental health carer, Dawn, about her experiences of caring for a loved one with schizophrenia during the pandemic
- Tony Stevenson, MIFA National CEO, delivered a Zoom presentation about the challenges we are facing in the mental health sector with the COVID-19 pandemic and our advocacy focus moving ahead, finishing up by formally closing Schizophrenia Awareness Week 2020.



Tony Stevenson
National CEO of MIFA

*Meeting the challenges and
SAW Official Close*



#stayconnected



*Supporting and
contributing to our
MIFA Member events is
one of the ways we
work together*

MINETWORKS

minetworks.org.au

MIFA continues to deliver the MIFA network's collaborative project, MINetworks, the national information, support and referral service which comprises of one single national telephone number, a website locator and information sheets. During 2019-2020, a total of 833 inquiries were received across the national MINetworks partnership through the MINetworks 1800 phone number.

MiNetworks is our promise that we will provide a consistent level of service at any location in MIFA's national network.



LIVED EXPERIENCE FORUMS

**SANE
AUSTRALIA**

MIFA continues its strong partnership with SANE Australia as a SANE Forums partner. These Forums are free, online support communities for people affected by mental illness, which are moderated by mental health professionals. During 2019-2020, the MIFA SANE Forums page was utilised by 692 users.

OUR TURN TO SPEAK NATIONAL SURVEY

From July to October 2019, MIFA assisted SANE Australia with the development of the National Anti-Stigma Report Card, Our Turn To Speak, due to launch in October 2019. MIFA participated as a member of the Delphi Consensus Survey Quality Assurance Study to ensure the quality of individual survey questions. The survey asks people with severe and complex mental health conditions about their experiences of stigma and discrimination across 14 life domains. The survey aims to drive meaningful, systemic change that sees people affected by complex mental health issues being supported and included as equal members of our community.

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

This year has seen strong interest from mental health research consortia to partner with MIFA in significant research endeavours. The National Health and Medical Research Centre (NHMRC) released a tender for funding for the Special Initiative in Mental Health – a four-year multimillion-dollar initiative to establish a centre of excellence in mental health research. MIFA was singled out by several consortia bidders, because of our reputation in bringing a strong lived experience capability into their consortium team.

The MIFA Board agreed to accept the invitations to partner with separate consortia from The University of Newcastle and the University of NSW. We are also contributing our lived experience knowledge to the Mental Health Australia General Clinical Trial Network (MAGNET) program.

MIFA is fortunate to have Psychosis Australia as part of our organisational structure. This close relationship with Psychosis Australia, and its Research Advisory Committee headed up by Dr Alison Yung, further enhances MIFA's capacity to contribute to important research priorities for people living with complex mental health conditions and their families.



NEW INITIATIVES



ILC NATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAM

During this financial year, MIFA was successful in obtaining Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) funding under the Community Inclusion Capacity Development program from the NDIA. The project provides funding of \$537,000 (exc. GST) over three years (from 2019 to 2022) with the purpose of building innovative ways to increase the independence, and social and community participation of people with a disability.

MIFA recognises that psychosocial disability is a relatively new concept and that additional resources need to be developed for people with psychosocial disability to enhance access to services (both NDIS and non-NDIS services) to enhance quality of life outcomes. MIFA felt well placed to facilitate the co-design and development of quality resources due to our existing reach and advocacy in relation to psychosocial health and disability.

In November 2019, MIFA was notified of the successful funding application to develop resources and begun this project in February 2020. The project will:

1. determine required content for resources that are accessible, helpful and assist people to develop choice and control in their lives
2. implement an effective framework for co-design and co-production relevant to resource development
3. develop suitable, high-quality resources that can be utilised beyond the life of the project.

To achieve the project objectives, MIFA recruited people with lived experience of mental illness and of caring for someone with mental illness to form a Co-design Team.

The Co-design Team members are:

- Hayley Harris (lived experience representative – Western Australia)
- Arahni Sont (carer representative – New South Wales)
- Amanda Keaton (lived experience representative – New South Wales)
- Jenny Smith (lived experience representative – New South Wales)
- Roz Havard (carer representative – Northern Territory)
- Anne Barbara (carer representative – South Australia)
- Norm Wotherspoon (lived experience representative – Queensland)
- Ellen Mugridge (service representative – ACT)
- Donna Didlick (Project Manager for MIFA)

The team will meet 12 times over the next 12 months to create resources that will promote recovery, contribute to stigma reduction, help people access services, inform mainstream services about recovery-oriented practice, and connect peers and carers to share their stories.

Young Futures has been engaged to evaluate the project. Young Futures will measure the impact of the resources and evaluate the co-design process developed by MIFA.

MIFA is excited and grateful to be able to engage passionate people with lived experience in the design of national information resources. We look forward to seeing what emerges as the project progresses next financial year.

2019-2020

Out From The Mist is an international photography competition that is proudly supported by and run in partnership with MIFA. It provides a platform for professional and amateur photographers with mental health experiences to have their voices heard through an emotive, powerful and creative artistic display. Harnessing the power of storytelling, the exhibition showcases the strengths and the challenges, the joyous moments and the sad, of those who directly and indirectly confront the challenges of mental illness. In 2019, MIFA was pleased to support the inaugural competition of Out From The Mist, working in partnership with the competition's Creative Director and Founder, Michael Lockwood.



The competition included a live exhibition and Awards Night during World Mental Health Week. The exhibition of 75 short-listed photographs was showcased in the Foyer of the ABC Building in Southbank, Brisbane. The inaugural competition of Out From The Mist attracted 440 entries from photographers of all ages and experience levels across 20 countries. Entries were broadly grouped around four perspectives (lived experience, relationships, recovery and change) and there were prizes for each category. The 2019 winners were announced at the Awards Night by Queensland Mental Health Commissioner, Ivan Frkovic. MIFA's Chair, Mick Reid AM, officiated the ceremony.

In 2019, MIFA worked in partnership with Creative Director, Michael Lockwood, to:

- support the photography exhibition held in the ABC Foyer in Southbank, Brisbane
- develop and implement a sponsorship and partnership strategy to source funding and in-kind donations for the 2019 competition
- develop and implement a marketing and promotions strategy to promote entries.

The inaugural Out From the Mist exhibition was viewed by thousands of people from across the globe and attracted coveted media attention, including from the Sydney Morning Herald. Judged by an independent panel, including renowned author and photographer, Steve Parish, the event awarded \$10,000 in cash and in-kind prizes.

For the full list of sponsors and 2019 winners, visit outfromthemist.com.



Danielle Pocock
2019 Winner

"I definitely felt that it was important to put my work out there - in this space. There is nothing like this. A photographic competition about mental health - and expressing mental health."

[Click here to view our interview with Danielle.](#)

The mission of Psychosis Australia is to support organisational, investment and policy capacity to carry out priority-driven research into psychotic illnesses, with the aim of helping all those affected by these mental illnesses to live better lives now.

MIFA continued to provide secretariat support to Psychosis Australia during the 2019-2020 financial year. Psychosis Australia supports the advancement of psychosis research in Australia to positively impact the lives of people living with psychosis. Psychosis Australia works in partnership with consumer and carer organisations, governments and funders across Australia to ensure that advancements in psychosis research are translated into real life interventions and support. Psychosis Australia examines the evidence of what works and assesses the effectiveness of programs and initiatives to determine which approaches produce the best outcomes in people’s lives. Based on the evidence, Psychosis Australia is then able to recommend priority areas for future research.

The strategic research objectives of Psychosis Australia are overseen by the Board of Trustees. The Trustees of Psychosis Australia during the 2019-2020 financial year were Stephen Gerlach AM (Chair), Bronwyn Russell (Treasurer), Professor Stanley Catts, David Meldrum, Professor Ian Hickie AM and Robert Ramjan AM. Tony Stevenson, National CEO of MIFA, acted as the Company Secretary for Psychosis Australia.

Psychosis Australia is supported by a Research Advisory Council to assist in the priority areas for psychosis research in Australia. During the 2019-2020 financial year, Dr Alison Yung was appointed to the role of Chair of the Research Advisory Council.

PROGRESSING PSYCHOSIS RESEARCH

In the 2019-2020 financial year, Psychosis Australia continued to progress priorities for psychosis research in Australia through advocacy on the Five Success Factors. These factors aim to focus research efforts in five key areas so that people living with psychosis in Australia can achieve enhanced outcomes in life.

1,000,000
Australians will experience psychosis at some stage in their lifetime

FIVE SUCCESS FACTORS

- 1 Increased life expectancy**
- 2 Increased cost-effectiveness of treatments and supports**
- 3 Improved quality of life**
- 4 Increased productivity and social and economic participation**
- 5 Tangible progress towards prevention, recovery and cure**

AUSTRALIAN PSYCHOSIS SYMPOSIUM 2020



The Australian Psychosis Symposium (APS) was held on 4 March 2020 at the Primus Hotel in Sydney and was convened by Professor Stanley Catts. The Symposium was a one-day conference that brought together researchers, academics, service providers, policy advisors, consumers and carers, to hear from world leading experts. The theme for this year's Symposium was "Re-wiring Circuits". This provided an update on approaches to cognitive, learning and motivational recovery in psychotic disorders, particularly schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. The Symposium was based upon the premise that cognitive remediation should be a standard of care for schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, but this is not reflected in practice.

The Symposium was well attended by 135 delegates, with 14 delegates identifying as consumers and/or carers and four student delegates. Internationally and locally renowned speakers presented the latest research, including:

- Professor Dame Til Wykes – Vice Dean, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, Kings College London (UK) – who provided reflections on cognitive remediation
- Professor Alice Medalia – Clinical Director, Cognitive Health Services, New York Office of Mental Health, and Professor of Medical Psychology, Columbia University Medical Centre (USA) – who presented on Motivation and Learning to improve cognitive health: Are we getting NEAR yet?
- Professor Helen Killaspy – Professor of Rehabilitation Psychiatry, Faculty of Brain Sciences, University College London (UK) – who spoke about delivering a whole system approach to mental health rehabilitation
- Professor Anthony Harris – Professor of Psychiatry, Westmead Clinical School, University of Sydney, and Clinical Director, Brain Dynamics Centre, The Westmead Institute for Medical Research (AUS) – who provided an update on making cognitive remediation routinely available
- Dr Frances Dark – Clinical Director, Rehabilitation Academic Unit, Metro South Addiction and Mental Health Services, Brisbane (AUS) – who provided an update on cognition remediation as the foundation of recovery
- Professor Matthew Thomas – Senior Lecturer, Psychology, Charles Sturt University (AUS) – who spoke about his experience with the CIRCuiTS program.

Delegate feedback revealed that the caliber of speakers was very high, the topics were relevant, interesting and progressive, the event organisation was of a high standard, and that attendees are looking forward to the next Australian Psychosis Conference.

We thank our sponsor, Janssen Australia, for providing a generous educational grant in the amount of \$10,000 and Professor Stanley Catts for his very generous donation of \$30,000.



Left: Estela Fernandes (APS Event Organiser) and Professor Stanley Catts (APS Convenor and Australian Psychosis Trustee). *Middle:* Professor Dame Til Wykes presenting to the delegates. *Right:* In the room with APS delegates at the Primus Hotel in Sydney.

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
Income			
Revenue and other income	2	489,891	356,162
Total revenue and other income		489,891	356,162
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense		325,186	282,426
Other expenses		144,715	145,977
Finance costs		62	108
Depreciation		-	-
Total expenses	3	469,963	428,511
Profit/ (loss) before income tax		19,928	(72,349)
Income tax expense		-	-
Profit/ (loss) after income tax		19,928	(72,349)
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income		19,928	(72,349)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
Assets			
Current			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	307,357	43,109
Trade and other receivables	5	31,248	69,468
Other current assets	6	7,411	-
Total Current Assets		346,016	112,577
Total Non-Current Assets		-	-
Total Assets		346,016	112,577
Liabilities			
Current			
Trade and other payables	7	17,725	15,621
Unearned revenue	8	212,816	11,500
Provisions	9	10,352	261
Total Current Liabilities		240,893	27,382
Non-Current			
Provisions	9	-	-
Total Non-Current Liabilities		-	-
Total Liabilities		240,893	27,382
Net Assets		105,123	85,195
Accumulated Funds			
Opening accumulated funds		85,195	157,544
Current year operating profit / (deficit)		19,928	(72,349)
Total Equity		105,123	85,195

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	Accumulated Funds \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2018	157,544	157,544
Total comprehensive income	(72,349)	(72,349)
Balance at 30 June 2019	<u>85,195</u>	<u>85,195</u>
Balance at 1 July 2019	85,195	85,195
Total comprehensive income	19,928	19,928
Balance at 30 June 2020	<u>105,123</u>	<u>105,123</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Receipts from members contributions		160,600	217,360
Receipts from donors, sponsors and others		607,465	147,823
COVID-19 stimulus (cash flow boost)		25,652	-
Payments to suppliers and employees		(529,664)	(488,763)
Interest received		195	387
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	10	<u>264,248</u>	<u>(123,193)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		264,248	(123,193)
Cash at beginning of year		43,109	166,302
Cash at end of year	4	<u><u>307,357</u></u>	<u><u>43,109</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2020

1. Statement of significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Basis of preparation

In the directors' opinion, Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia Inc ("MIFA") is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements.

These special purpose financial statements have been prepared for the sole purpose of distributing a financial report to the members and to fulfil the financial reporting requirements of MIFA in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and must not be used for any other purpose. The directors have determined that the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to meet the needs of the members.

These special purpose financial statements do not comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards. The material accounting policies disclosed in Note 1 that have not been assessed for compliance with Australian Accounting Standards include:

- Recognition of income
- Employee benefits

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 'Presentation of Financial Statements', AASB 107 'Statement of Cash Flows', AASB 108 'Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors' and AASB 1054 'Australian Additional Disclosures', as appropriate for not-for-profit oriented entities.

The financial report is for the Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia Inc as an individual entity, an incorporated association, incorporated and domiciled in the Australian Capital Territory. The Association is a not-for-profit entity for the purposes of preparing the financial statements and the financial statements are presented in Australian Dollars, which is MIFA's functional and presentation currency.

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board on the date the Directors' Declaration was signed. The directors have the power to amend and reissue the financial statements.

Historical cost convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Critical accounting estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Association's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed below.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2020

New or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations adopted

MIFA has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB'), to the extent applied, that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

None of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations adopted have had a significant impact on the Association.

Any new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted. The directors have reviewed the accounting standards issued but not yet effective at the date of this report and none of the revisions or new standards, to the extent applied, are anticipated to have a significant impact on MIFA.

Accounting policies

Income tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

Income recognition

Membership contributions

Revenue from membership contributions is recognised over the membership period.

Events and sponsorship revenue

Events and sponsorship revenue is recognised when the related event takes place.

Grant income

The performance obligations attached to grant funding are considered when determining how to account for the revenue. Grant revenue is recognised in profit or loss when the Association satisfies the performance obligations stated within the funding agreements.

Where the grant funding has no specific performance obligations attached the revenue is recognised at the point in time the right to receive the grant funds occurs.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before the Association is eligible to retain the contribution, the grant will be recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until those conditions are satisfied.

Donations

Donations are recognised at the time of receipt.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2020

Interest revenue

Interest revenue is recognised on an accrual basis using the effective interest method.

Government support

MIFA is the recipient of Government support in the form of Cashflow Boost. This support is recognised as other income in the period to which the amounts will be credited.

All revenue and other income is stated net of the amount of any goods and services tax (GST).

Operating expenses

Operating expenses are recognised in profit or loss upon utilisation of the service or at the date of their origin.

Current and non-current classification

Assets and liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position based on current and non-current classification.

An asset is classified as current when: it is either expected to be realised or intended to be sold or consumed in MIFA's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is expected to be realised within 12 months after the reporting period; or the asset is cash or a cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is classified as current when: it is either expected to be settled in MIFA's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period; or there is no unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other liabilities are classified as non-current.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, less any allowance for expected credit losses. Trade receivables are due for settlement no more than 30 days after the transaction.

Other receivables are recognised at amortised cost, less any allowance for expected credit losses.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2020

Trade and other payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Association prior to the end of the financial year which are unpaid. Due to their short-term nature they are measured at amortised cost and are not discounted. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid by the end of the month following the month of purchase.

Employee benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs.

i) Long-term employee benefit obligations

Long service leave is accrued at nominal rates for employees with five years or more continuous service.

Equity

Accumulated funds includes all current and prior period retained earnings.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the tax authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of the acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the tax authority is included in other receivables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to the tax authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the tax authority.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2020

Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Management continually evaluates its judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenue and expenses. Management bases its judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on other various factors, including expectations of future events or management believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting judgements and estimates will seldom equal the related actual results. The judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

Judgement has been exercised in considering the impacts that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had, or may have, on MIFA based on known information. This consideration extends to the nature of the activities and the role the Association has in representing a national voice and approach to enable people with mental illness and their carers to fully share in the community with the same rights and opportunities as other citizens. Other than as addressed in specific notes, there does not currently appear to be either any significant impact upon the financial statements or any significant uncertainties with respect to events or conditions which may impact MIFA unfavourably as at the reporting date or subsequently as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and notwithstanding the volatile nature of the pandemic and uncertainty in the Australian and global economies, directors have confidence that the Association will continue to be able to represent the interests of people affected by mental illness.

2. Revenue and other income

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Grants, Donations and Sponsorships		
- Janssen Cilag	69,167	59,167
- Lundbeck	1,500	21,000
- Serif (Europe) Ltd.	-	3,468
- Department of Social Services	-	10,000
- Servier Laboratories	10,000	-
- National Disability Insurance Agency	69,593	-
- Department of Health	150,000	-
	<u>300,260</u>	<u>93,635</u>

The following additional sponsorships were received in 2019-20 and recorded as unearned revenue, as the sponsored events occurred in the 2020-21 financial year:

- Janssen Cilag - \$30,000 (2019: \$0)
- Lundbeck - \$0 (2019: \$1,500)
- Servier Laboratories - \$10,000 (2019: \$10,000)
- Princess Pictures - \$455 (2019: \$0)

Events and sponsorship revenue is recognised when the related event takes place. COVID-19 disrupted some of MIFA's planned events, resulting in the related sponsorship revenue being deferred to 2020-21.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Financial Contributions - Members		
Bridges Health and Community Care	16,000	12,600
Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia (NT)	10,000	15,000
Mental Health Foundation ACT	10,000	10,000
selectability	30,000	40,000
Skylight Mental Health Inc or		
Mental Illness Fellowship of South Australia	10,000	100,000
Mental Illness Fellowship of Western Australia	40,000	40,000
One Door Mental Health (Schizophrenia Fellowship of NSW Inc)		
	30,000	40,000
	<u>146,000</u>	<u>257,600</u>
Other Income		
The Yorke Family Foundation	-	1,500
George Lewin Foundation	-	2,500
Leonie Davis in recognition of Chris	-	40
Reilton Co.	-	500
Michael Lockwood	5,000	-
Norbert Schweizer	1,000	-
COVID-19 stimulus (cash flow boost)	37,436	-
Interest	195	387
	<u>43,631</u>	<u>4,927</u>
	<u>489,891</u>	<u>356,162</u>
Total revenue and other income		

3. Profit/loss for the year

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
The following significant expense items with other expenses are relevant in explaining financial performance		
Accounting costs	17,560	16,528
Audit fees	8,555	7,500
Bank charges	62	108
Board meeting costs	7,602	6,385
Business development	1,480	1,633
Insurance	7,182	4,345
Office costs	12,580	11,404
Project expense	27,513	41,775
Salaries and related costs	325,186	282,426
Office communication	2,829	2,762
Promotional costs	19,063	1,302
Recruitment costs	285	-
Travel and accommodation	40,066	52,343
	<u>469,963</u>	<u>428,511</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2020

4. Cash and cash equivalents	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Cheque account	30,251	14,199
Investment account	277,106	28,910
	<u>307,357</u>	<u>43,109</u>
	<u><u>307,357</u></u>	<u><u>43,109</u></u>
5. Trade and other receivables	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Current		
Trade receivable	31,248	69,468
	<u>31,248</u>	<u>69,468</u>
	<u><u>31,248</u></u>	<u><u>69,468</u></u>
6. Other assets	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Current		
Prepayments	7,411	-
	<u>7,411</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u><u>7,411</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>
7. Trade and other payables	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Current		
Accrued expenses	7,000	5,599
Trade creditors	960	50
GST, PAYG and Superannuation payable	9,765	9,972
	<u>17,725</u>	<u>15,621</u>
	<u><u>17,725</u></u>	<u><u>15,621</u></u>
8. Unearned revenue	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Current		
Unearned revenue - grants	134,407	-
Unearned revenue - memberships	35,000	-
Unearned revenue - sponsorships and donations	43,409	11,500
	<u>212,816</u>	<u>11,500</u>
	<u><u>212,816</u></u>	<u><u>11,500</u></u>
9. Provisions	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Current		
Provision for annual leave	10,352	261
	<u>10,352</u>	<u>261</u>
	<u><u>10,352</u></u>	<u><u>261</u></u>
Non-current		
Provision for long service leave	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2020

10. Cash flow information

Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Reconciliation of cash flows from operations with profit after income tax:		
Profit/(loss) after income tax	19,928	(72,349)
<i>Changes in assets and liabilities</i>		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	38,220	(38,272)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	2,104	(16,765)
Increase/(decrease) in unearned revenue	201,316	11,500
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	10,091	(7,307)
Cash flows from operating activities	<u>264,248</u>	<u>(123,193)</u>

11. Events after the reporting date

No matters have arisen since the end of the financial year that have significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of MIFA.

12. Economic dependency

The Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia Incorporated receives the majority of its income through Members and government grants. The nature and extent of these funding sources make the Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia Incorporated economically dependent upon these parties in order to continue to provide its current services.

13. Contingent liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities facing MIFA as of 30 June 2020.

14. Board remuneration

During the financial year, no members of the Board of MIFA received either directly or indirectly as a member of a firm or body corporate payments as a result of transactions with MIFA in the ordinary course of business and in accordance with normal commercial terms and conditions.

Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia Inc

ABN 73 204 129 543

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2020

15. Association details

The registered office and principal place of business of the association is:

Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia Incorporated
20 Pidgeon Close
West End, Queensland 4101
Australia

The principal activities of MIFA during the financial year were to represent a national voice and approach to enable people with mental illness and their carers to fully share in the community with the same rights and opportunities as other citizens.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2020

16. Trust Information

2020

2019

\$

\$

Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia Inc has acted as trustee of the Psychosis Australia Trust since its inception on the 1st December 2011. The financial information for the Trust is presented below:

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

Total revenue and other income	66,042	193,482
Total expenses	(48,765)	(165,564)
Total Profit / (Loss) from operations	17,277	27,918
Total comprehensive income	17,277	27,918

Statement of Financial Position

Assets

Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	84,265	90,216
Trade and other receivables	381	-
Other current assets	21,927	-
Total current assets	106,573	90,216
Total Assets	106,573	90,216

Liabilities

Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	1,650	2,570
Total current liabilities	1,650	2,570
Total liabilities	1,650	2,570

Net Assets

104,923

87,646

Equity

Accumulated funds	87,646	59,728
Net income	17,277	27,918
Total equity	104,923	87,646

Mortgages, Charges or Other Securities

The Trust does not have any mortgages, charges or other securities affecting the property of the Trust.

Trust liabilities and right of indemnity

In accordance with the Trust Deed the trustees of the Psychosis Australia Trust are not liable should the Trust be unable to meet its obligations.

Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia Inc

ABN 73 204 129 543

Directors' Declaration

The Directors have determined that the Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia Inc (MIFA) is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The Directors of the association declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out in pages 1 to 14, are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013; and
 - (a) Comply with the Accounting Standards described in Note 1 to the financial statements; and
 - (b) Give a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
2. In the Directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that MIFA will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



Michael Reid
Independent Chair

Dated this **15th** day of November 2020.

MIFA Enquiries

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