



# Annual Report

2024 - 2025





# Table of Contents

About MIFA, Our Vision & Mission	<b>3</b>	Perspectives 2025	<b>16</b>
Our Values	<b>4</b>	Out From The Mist 2024	<b>17</b>
The MIFA Network	<b>5</b>	Raising Awareness	<b>19</b>
Our Impact	<b>6</b>	Psychosis Australia	<b>21</b>
From the MIFA Chair & CEO	<b>7</b>	Our People	<b>23</b>
Advocating for Psychosocial Support	<b>9</b>	Our Sponsors	<b>24</b>
Working Together	<b>11</b>	Financial Statement	<b>25</b>
Lived Experience Leadership	<b>13</b>		

## Acknowledgment

MIFA acknowledges the traditional owners of the countries throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to them and their cultures and to the elders past and present. We recognise and value the expertise of people, families and carers with living experience of mental health challenges. We uplift and amplify marginalised voices to build a more inclusive future for all.

# About MIFA



Since 1986, MIFA has been a prominent voice in the mental health sector, advocating for the needs and interests of individuals living with mental health challenges, their families, and carers.

Our core belief is that the experiences of those living with mental health challenges should influence mental health policies, service delivery, and societal attitudes. We utilise various advocacy channels to emphasise the issues affecting people with lived experience of mental health challenges.

Our efforts aim to influence policymakers, funders, politicians, researchers, and sponsors to invest in services that genuinely transform lives.

## Our Vision

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

## Our Mission

### Mission 1

The core strength of MIFA is amplifying the voices of people affected by severe and complex mental health challenges, their families, and their friends.

### Mission 2

We advocate for positive changes in all areas of social and public policy that impact the quality of life of people with lived experience of mental health challenges, as well as families, carers, and friends.

### Mission 3

We create collaborative projects and communities of practice that help each other become financially viable and deliver effective, quality support.



# Our Values

1

## Lived Experience Leadership

We believe in the power of lived experience to guide the design and development of the mental health system.

2

## Comprehensive Psychosocial Support

Everyone with psychosocial needs arising from mental health challenges should have access to the necessary support within their community.

3

## Collaborative Recovery-Oriented Services

We co-design and co-develop recovery-oriented services with those who have lived experience of mental health challenges, as well as their carers and loved ones.

4

## Empowered Mental Health Workforce

We are committed to developing the mental health workforce, including the Lived Experience workforce, and recognising and rewarding the transformational role of recovery support work in individuals' lives.

5

## Holistic Mental Health Reform

Our approach to mental health reform addresses the social determinants of health and prioritises improving social connections.

# The MIFA Network



MIFA collaborates with our Member organisations to understand the needs and challenges of people affected by mental health challenges. This partnership strengthens our advocacy and the work we do. We aim to succeed together in creating positive change and improving the quality of life for everyone impacted by severe mental health challenges in Australia.

**MIFA is a federation of community-managed mental health organisations across Australia.**

We deliver specialised mental health and psychosocial support services to individuals, their carers and loved ones each year. With extensive experience in providing targeted, community-based programs, we are dedicated to supporting those impacted by mental health challenges and psychosocial disability.

We empower our member organisations to remain financially sustainable and deliver high-quality, effective supports. By working together, we aim to understand and address the needs of people impacted by mental health challenges, striving to create positive change and improve the quality of life for those dealing with severe and complex mental health conditions in Australia.

The MIFA Network provides a collaborative platform for MIFA Board Members, Member CEOs, and staff to regularly discuss strategic directions, advocacy initiatives, mental health reforms, service delivery innovations, and strategies to enhance our collective impact.



# Our Impact



## ADVOCACY



4 formal submissions

29 meetings with parliamentarians, policymakers & Departmental Representatives

75 meetings with key mental health influencers & partners around Australia

27 engagement events with MIFA Members

8 MIFA CEO Group Meetings

Input into 55 consultations, expert panels, workshops & conferences

A member of key mental health advisory groups

## COLLABORATION & CAPACITY BUILDING



6 MIFA Member organisations

Led the National Psychosocial Support Advocacy Alliance Campaign with 40+ Australian organisations

Supported member organisations in advocacy & providing essential support services to many thousands of people across Australia

MIFA Co-Design Team

Perspectives 2025 Committee

Finding North Website Co-Design Team

Training Development Group

Rights in Action Training Co-Design Group

## LIVED EXPERIENCE INITIATIVES



Out From The Mist 2024

Finding North website

533 Finding North Network members

11 graduates of our pilot Rights In Action Program

6 graduates of our pilot Lived Experience Speakers Training Program

2 Networking Events: South Australia & Canberra

5 webinars with 457 registrations

Perspectives 2025 Finding North Network Lived Experience e-Symposium

## OUR AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS



2024 Mental Health Week

World Mental Health Day 2024

2025 Schizophrenia Awareness Week.



# From the MIFA Chair & CEO

**Our message has been consistent: every person deserves access to the right supports to have the best possible mental health and quality of life.**

## Welcome to the 2024-2025 MIFA Annual Report.

This year has been one of both momentum and challenge for MIFA and our members.

### The Need for Urgent Action

Across the network, we continued to raise awareness of the unmet needs for people with psychosocial support in Australia. Despite years of reviews, inquiries, and recommendations, the gap remains, and it's widening.

In 2020, the Productivity Commission identified 154,000 people missing out on vital community-based mental health supports. By 2024, this figure had grown to nearly half a million. The evidence is clear, and the need for urgent action is undeniable.

MIFA has a critical role in amplifying these realities. Our strength lies in drawing on the deep knowledge of our member organisations, each doing extraordinary and innovative work in their communities, and in amplifying the voices of those with lived and living experience.

Whether through advocacy in Canberra, submissions to national inquiries and

collaborative campaigns, our message has been consistent: every person deserves access to the right supports to have the best possible mental health and quality of life.

### 2024-2025 Highlights

Highlights of the past year included an extension of funding for Finding North and Finding North Network, enabling us to sustain our national Lived Experience initiatives and grow our team.

We also hosted our third Perspectives e-Symposium, bringing together more than 370 people each day to share stories of advocacy, human rights, and lived experience leadership. Perspectives has become a flagship event for the sector, and its impact is reflected not just in strong attendance and feedback but in the confidence and growth of the speakers themselves.

Our Rights and Self-Advocacy Training Program was also launched, introducing new peer-to-peer online training designed to equip people with lived experience with skills and knowledge to navigate their mental health journey and influence change.

We continued our tradition of raising awareness through national campaigns,

including our most interactive Schizophrenia Awareness Week to date, and Mental Health Week.

Out From The Mist once again impressed with the creativity, honesty, and vulnerability of the artists who shared their lived experience through art in its various forms.

### The Power of Coming Together

Central to our work this year was collaboration. We collaborated with the National Mental Health Consumer Alliance (NMHCA), Mental Health Carers Australia (MHCA), the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience Centre, Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) and Mental Health Australia to demand more from Governments to address the gap in psychosocial support. And we continued to work closely with the Parliamentary Friends of Mental Health to ensure that key issues were on the political agenda.

the Aboriginal Mental Health Australia, Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA), and the Australian Psychosocial Alliance, we

Locally, our member organisations hosted events and roundtables in South Australia and Canberra, highlighting the power of connection, knowledge-sharing, and sparking new solutions together.

### The Challenges & Looking Forward

The challenges remain significant, especially regarding the NDIS, unmet demand, foundational supports, and ensuring governments deliver on commitments.

As always, our priorities for the coming year remain clear: to strengthen relationships, continue uplifting lived experience leadership and member organisations, and ensure people's voices are heard at every level of policy and service design.

### Thank You & Farewell

We express our gratitude to all who make this work possible.

Our heartfelt thanks to our member organisations, partners, sponsors, dedicated staff and volunteers, co-design and other groups, and the Board for their unwavering commitment and passion.

This will be the last annual report under the leadership of our CEO, Tony Stevenson, who has announced his retirement in 2025. His contribution to MIFA and the mental health sector nationally and internationally cannot be overstated.

Tony's ability to build relationships across government, community, and lived experience, his leadership in advocacy, and his unwavering focus on elevating lived experience voices have established MIFA as a respected, credible, and trusted organisation.

On behalf of the Board, members, and staff, we thank Tony for his remarkable service and wish him every success in his retirement at the end of 2025.

Together, with our shared commitment to lived experience, compassion, and collaboration, we look forward to the year ahead.



**Claire Moore**  
MIFA Chair



**Tony Stevenson**  
MIFA CEO



# Advocating for Psychosocial Support

**“We are three years into the National Mental Health Agreement, and there is still no funding commitment, no clear service models, and no plan to close the gap. It’s time up.”**

*Tony Stevenson, MIFA CEO*

**In 2024–2025, MIFA remained at the forefront of national mental health reform, championing the needs of people with lived experience of severe and complex mental challenges.**

Through campaigns, submissions, and direct engagement with decision-makers, we called for urgent investment in psychosocial support and accountability for reform.

## **National Psychosocial Support Advocacy Alliance**

MIFA continued to lead the National Psychosocial Support Advocacy Alliance, uniting more than 40 leaders across lived experience, service providers, peak bodies, researchers, and academics. The Alliance met regularly to analyse national and state developments, and issued strong calls for urgent action to fund a National Psychosocial Support Program (NPSP).

During the year, Alliance members began co-designing a new accountability tool to address the lack of external checks within the current Agreement. The prototype will monitor progress and act as an educational resource, with development expected to progress in the second half of 2025.

## **Federal Budget Submission**

Our 2024–2025 Federal Budget Submission set out a clear roadmap to close the psychosocial support gap:

- \$3B over four years to create a coordinated NPSP, providing 204,000 additional support places by 2029–2030.
- \$1.13B annually from 2029–2030 to sustain and expand services long-term.
- Doubling Commonwealth Psychosocial Support (CPS) funding from \$130.1M to \$260.2M to deliver an additional 25,000 support places to address urgent unmet needs.

## **Productivity Commission Review**

In our submission to the Productivity Commission’s review of the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement, we highlighted that the Agreement has failed to deliver community-based supports for more than 230,000 Australians.

We recommended shifting oversight of the Agreement to First Ministers, embedding internal and external accountability



mechanisms, making future psychosocial support commitments specific, timed, and measurable, and establishing a Parliamentary Committee inquiry and a National Audit Office review into progress and spending.

### General Foundational Supports Submission

MIFA also lodged a submission on General Foundational Supports.

Our recommendations included:

- Designing General and Targeted Supports in parallel to ensure integration.
- Ensuring funding is fit for purpose for people with mental health challenges.
- Retaining a national funding stream within programs.
- Clarity on what proportion of unmet need these supports will address.
- Commencing the rollout in 2025 rather than 2026–2027.

### PHN Business Model Review

Our comprehensive analysis of Primary Health Network (PHN) commissioning revealed inefficiencies and fragmentation across the system.

To address these challenges, we called for a more cohesive approach. Specifically:

- the adoption of nationally consistent funding models,
- the need for longer-term contracts to provide stability and continuity, transparent commissioning processes, and
- a co-designed and integrated psychosocial support system.



# Working Together

Collaboration is at the heart of MIFA's work. It is central to strengthening our advocacy, building sector capacity, and improving the quality of life for people living with high-need mental health challenges. In 2024–2025, we continued to bring our members, partners, and sector stakeholders together through a range of initiatives.

## Parliamentary Friends of Mental Health

We continued to work closely with our Parliamentary Friends of Mental Health.

In November 2024, MIFA hosted a Parliamentary Friends of Mental Health Dinner at Parliament House with convenors Tracey Roberts MP, Andrew Wallace MP, and Senator Jordon Steele-John, highlighting the need for a holistic mental health approach.

Jackie Curtis AM discussed the success of Mindgardens' Keeping the Body in Mind, promoting physical health, diet, and recovery. And Dr Barry Geheran shared his personal and professional experiences as a psychiatrist

and carer for his brother with psychosis, emphasising empathy and listening to those with mental health challenges.

## Joint Advocacy

MIFA collaborated closely with the peak bodies to press Governments to do more in addressing the gap in psychosocial supports.

Alongside the NMHCA, MHCA, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience Centre, Mental Health Australia, CMHA, and the Australian Psychosocial Alliance, we strengthened a united call during our Mental Health Week campaign under the theme 'Stand With Us'.



We also met with Productivity Commissioners Selwyn Button and Dr Angela Jackson to present our priorities for the next National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement. MIFA and CMHA also endorsed a joint Ministerial Brief prepared by MHCA and NMHCA, to be presented to Commonwealth Ministers in the coming year.

### Communities of Practice

This year, MIFA established four new Communities of Practice (CoPs):

1. Impact and Opportunity,
2. Embedding Lived Experience,
3. Workforce Development, and
4. Accreditation.

These provide an inclusive, multi-disciplinary model where anyone can contribute. With two meetings already held, the CoPs are strengthening collaboration across our member organisations and fostering shared leadership on sector priorities.

### MIFAs Biannual Roundtables

MIFA's Biannual National Roundtables continued to bring members and sector leaders together.

In Canberra in 2024, we came together to

sharpen our focus as we prepared for the Federal Budget and Election.

And in Adelaide in 2025, we gathered to discuss mental health reform, the social determinants of health, and the importance of social connection. Attendees included the National Mental Health Commissioner, First Nations representatives, and representatives from across the mental health sector.

### International Collaboration

Internationally, Tony represented MIFA and Australia's mental health sector at the Boehringer-Ingelheim Global Patient Partnership Summit in Malaysia alongside NGO representatives from 11 countries across the Asia region. From mental health to rare diseases, attendees aimed to strengthen advocacy and inclusion within global health systems.

Tony joined a panel with advocates from Japan and the Philippines to discuss inequity, trauma, and power in health, and to advocate for a shift from "Patient Experience Data" to "Evidence-Based Advocacy." He also contributed to the development of a White Paper on patient participation for the World Health Assembly. With Tony's influence, the language was changed from 'patient' to 'lived experience'.



# Lived Experience Leadership

**Over 2024–2025, MIFA strengthened our commitment to lived experience leadership.**

At the heart of this work is our belief that people with lived and living experience must shape the systems, services, and supports that affect their lives. Our goals are clear: to be a strong ally to the lived experience community, to embed lived experience leadership systematically across our organisation, and to contribute to the growth and strength of the national lived experience sector.

## **2024-2025 Highlights**

Building on the momentum of previous years, we delivered new programs, expanded networks and our team, and invested in embedding lived experience at every level.

One of the highlights for the year was securing an extension of funding to sustain and expand

our national lived experience initiatives and team - including recruitment of two new Lived Experience team members.

We launched our "Rights and Self-Advocacy Training Program", providing peer-to-peer training that equips individuals with the skills and knowledge to navigate their mental health journey and influence positive change. Weekly sessions and an online peer group provided a supportive environment for participants to put learning into practice; with many reporting they had begun to self-advocate in their daily lives. Eleven people graduated from the pilot with overwhelmingly positive feedback; and interest remains strong, with over 80 people on the waitlist for our next program.

Our pilot Lived Experience Speakers Program welcomed twelve participants, and six graduates. With retention posing a challenge, lessons learned shaped the second program,



with more support, improved communication and additional resources.

Co-design and collaboration were central to our initiatives. A national co-design team developed the Rights and Self-Advocacy Training Program, and a training development group shaped the Lived Experience Speakers Program, with input from experts and facilitators with lived experience. Despite gaps, notably in First Nations representation, our commitment to authentic co-design continues to drive the development of training that is relevant, inclusive, and empowering.

### **Finding North Network**

Finding North Network is an online community for individuals with lived experience of mental health challenges. The platform facilitates sharing, discussions, and amplifies voices on addressing mental health issues in Australia.

Membership to the network grew steadily over the year to 533, up 45% from the previous year. This growth can be attributed to a redesigned platform with improved user experience, and increased opportunities. For instance, 457 people registered to attend five of our webinars. We also hosted two face-to-face networking events for members in Canberra and South Australia (the latter with LELAN).

### **Finding North Website**

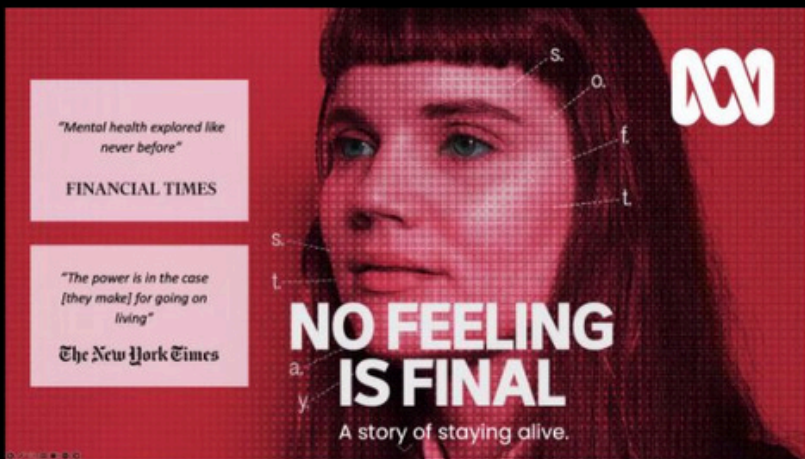
We expanded our Finding North website this year, including more personal stories, resources, and lived experience perspectives to support people to navigate their unique mental health journey and the mental health system. Co-designed from the outset, we plan to expand the content, enhance the user experience, strengthen marketing efforts, and explore collaborations with intersectional lived experience groups.

### **Challenges and Opportunities**

While our team's geographic distribution across Australia enhances collaboration and diversity, it presents coordination challenges across time zones. Nonetheless, this reach guarantees that a broad range of national perspectives are reflected in our programs.

In 2025-2026, we'll continue to expand our Speakers Program, deliver Rights and Self-Advocacy training, and increase the number of webinars and leadership development opportunities.

We also plan to strengthen national collaboration, enhance existing initiatives rather than duplicating, recruit additional lived experience roles, and uplift Lived Experience leadership at every level.



# Perspectives 2025

**In May 2025, MIFA hosted Perspectives, our third national Finding North Network Lived Experience e-Symposium.**

The free, two-day online event has become a flagship in Australia’s mental health calendar, bringing together a diverse community of Lived Experience leaders, advocates, allies, and mental health professionals to share stories of advocacy, human rights, and Lived Experience leadership.

## **Amplifying Lived Experience Perspectives**

The 2025 theme was once again Amplifying Lived Experience Perspectives. Fourteen speakers, including three keynote speakers and eleven lived experience speakers, shared impactful stories and insights from their personal experiences and community leadership through two perspectives:

- Day 1: Transforming through Advocacy
- Day 2: Connecting with Human Rights

Perspectives 2025 reaffirmed its value as a unique space for courageous conversations,

and shared learning. With more than 370 people registered to attend each day, feedback highlighted the strength of the speaker line-up, the supportive community fostered through the live chat, and the professional delivery of the event.

A standout feature of Perspectives continues to be the comprehensive speaker support provided, be they first time speakers or those who are more experienced. From personalised assistance and workshops, to speaker briefings and one-on-one support, every speaker was also financially compensated for their involvement in the event. This investment not only ensures high-quality presentations but also builds confidence and capacity among emerging

**“Accessible, supportive, adaptable & accommodating. Peer Principles in practice, humanity on display - it made the whole process a million times better.”**

*Perspectives 2025 Speaker*

lived experience leaders, something that was reflected in the feedback we received, with 100% of speakers surveyed telling us they were satisfied with the support provided.

Perspectives 2025 was delivered by MIFA's project team, with valuable input from an advisory committee and external collaborators. It emphasised the importance of lived experience-led events and reaffirmed MIFA's commitment to providing inclusive and affirming spaces that not only inspire change but also foster Lived Experience leadership for the future.

### Looking Ahead

Perspectives will continue to evolve as a national platform for lived experience, building on lessons learned to further strengthen inclusivity, coordination, and impact in 2026.

### PERSPECTIVES 2025 - AT A GLANCE



2 days, 14 speakers (11 lived experience, 3 keynotes)

370+ registrations each day

100% of speakers satisfied with support received

81% of attendees surveyed would recommend Perspectives to others



#### Average session ratings

- Day 1 - 4.66 / 5
- Day 2 - 4.72 / 5

**Top feedback:** Transformative · Authentic · Empowering · Inspiring · Inclusive

**“It was an honour to be part of Perspectives 2025 and to stand alongside such passionate voices in the lived experience space. I’m incredibly grateful for the opportunity to contribute and deeply inspired by the collective energy in the room.”**

*Michael Elwan, Lived Experience Speaker*



Kim Hutchinson



# OUT FROM THE MIST

## Representations of Mental Illness

**Out From The Mist is a unique international event celebrating photography, short film, and music, centred around themes of mental illness.**

In collaboration with MIFA, the event and its exhibitions highlight the diverse stories, experiences, and creative expressions of those navigating mental health challenges - whether they are individuals living with mental illness, carers or supporters.

The platform provides a space for showcasing their creativity and stories, reflecting a spectrum of emotions from pain and struggle to compassion, strength, and personal triumph, ultimately inspiring hope and optimism for the future.

### **2024 Out From The Mist Highlights**

In 2024, we received high-quality entries and heartfelt stories from participants in 26 countries, including the USA, Canada, the UK, the Philippines, Romania, Lithuania, Argentina, Finland, France, Greece, Germany, Hungary, Brazil, New Zealand, and Australia. This diversity highlights the universal nature of mental health experiences and shows how creative expression can bridge cultural and geographical divides.

Each year, we host several exhibitions that invite attendees to pause, reflect, and engage, doing what art does best: sparking conversation, challenging assumptions, and creating space for lived experiences within





different settings.

The awards night and exhibition opening at the Judith Wright Arts Centre in Brisbane was held during Mental Health Week 2024. The exhibition featured 11 music finalists, 13 short films, and 68 photography pieces celebrating creativity, resilience, and the power of storytelling through art.

We also hosted a pop-up exhibition on the Gold Coast for the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) Congress, showcasing 37 impactful images from the last six years of the competition. This event, attended by nearly 1,000 professionals, offered an opportunity to connect through art and foster important conversations in the mental health space.

### **Thank You to Our Supporters**

Out From The Mist relies on funding to continue making a difference, amplifying the voices and stories of individuals living with mental illness, and fighting stigma.

A big thank you to our sponsors who help us make this happen.

A special thank you to our Creative Director, Michael Lockwood, and Ilyse Elphick from MIFA for their dedicated efforts that drive this initiative. Also, to Marty Kincel, who, over the last four years has captured the spirit of our awards night. Once again, this year's video beautifully encapsulated the evening.

And last but not least, thank you to our talented entrants, finalists, winners, judges, supporters, and volunteers. This event would not be possible without you.

**To learn more, support [Out From The Mist](https://outfromthemist.com) and join next year's competition, visit [outfromthemist.com](https://outfromthemist.com).**

# Raising Awareness

Throughout 2024–2025, MIFA continued to raise awareness through national campaigns and public events.

By collaborating with people with lived experience, members, and partner organisations, these initiatives amplified lived and living experience voices, sparked national conversations, and ensured that the issue of psychosocial supports and mental health reform remained visible across Australia.

## Mental Health Week 2024

The 2024 campaign embraced the theme ‘Stand With Us’, highlighting the importance of solidarity and support for individuals navigating mental health challenges. Australians were invited to stand together and demand the mental health supports and services that make a real difference.

Partnering with Media Key, member organisations and partners, MIFA delivered a comprehensive national media campaign across traditional and digital platforms. Content themes included insights from the Unmet Needs Report, why lived experience matters, and simplified explanations of psychosocial supports. This approach broadened understanding and encouraged people to explore Finding North.

## World Mental Health Day 2024

In Brisbane, MIFA partnered with Check Up Australia to light up the Story Bridge, City Hall, and Reddacliff Place in purple and green, symbols of solidarity and hope.

At Parliament House in Canberra, MIFA co-hosted a breakfast with Psychosis Australia and Boehringer-Ingelheim, bringing together Ministers Butler and McBride, Shadow Minister Hughes, and sector leaders. Minister Butler notably acknowledged 30 years of neglect since deinstitutionalisation and the urgent



need for reform.

MIFA also unveiled findings from a YouGov poll of 1,619 Australians, showing overwhelming support for stronger government action on severe and complex mental health conditions ahead of the upcoming Federal election. These results, amplified through the media campaign, underscored a significant shift in community.

Additionally, MIFA joined forces with the new consumer and carer peak bodies, alongside CMHA and the Australian Psychosocial Alliance, to demand urgent action from governments to deliver psychosocial supports. This united call was amplified under the slogan ‘End the Neglect: Deliver the Psychosocial Support Australians Deserve’.



## Schizophrenia Awareness Week 2025

In May 2025, MIFA delivered its annual Schizophrenia Awareness Week campaign, 'Rethink the Label. Reclaim the Story'. This year's theme invited Australians to pause, question assumptions, and consider the impact of labels in mental health. By centring lived experience, the campaign called for personal agency, narrative justice, and the need to move beyond stereotypes.

MIFA partnered again with Media Key, members and partners to deliver a comprehensive national campaign. Interactive social media content, including a poll on whether the term schizophrenia should be replaced, drove engagement and made it the most interactive campaign to date.

### Looking Forward

MIFA will stay committed to raising awareness that shifts discrimination, challenges policy, amplifies the voices that matter most and calls for urgent mental health reform.

## RAISING AWARENESS - AT A GLANCE



### Mental Health Week 2024 - Stand With Us

- Media releases & letters to 580 outlets
- 55+ radio interviews & 2 TV interviews
- Brisbane's Story Bridge, City Hall & Reddacliff Place lit up in purple & green



### World Mental Health Day 2024

- Breakfast at Parliament House
- 1,619 Australians polled by YouGov:
  - 84% backed increased funding & services
  - 83% wanted severe mental illness as a health priority
  - 86% believed people living with severe illness deserve greater support
  - 89% believed families & carers deserved greater support



### Schizophrenia Awareness Week 2025

- Media releases & letters to 580 outlets
- 44 radio interviews
- LinkedIn: 5,949 impressions (↑469%)
- Facebook: 2,943 impressions (↑726%)
- Instagram: 301 impressions (↑1,000%)
- Interactive poll: 68% support replacing the term "schizophrenia"



# Psychosis **Australia**

**Psychosis Australia (PA) is a knowledge-based organisation advocating for strategic, multi-centre translational research to bridge the gap between research, clinical practice, and service delivery.**

PA prioritises prevention and early intervention for schizophrenia and mood disorders, while minimising psychosocial disability post-onset.

Crucially, PA incorporates the perspectives of people with lived and living experience, ensuring research better reflects real-world needs.

## **2024-2025 Highlights**

This year, PA progressed major initiatives while continuing its transition to become an independent corporate trustee. This change, now well underway, will strengthen PA's sustainability, governance and influence.

Two policy papers were developed to address gaps in psychosis research, support,

and lived experience inclusion. These have been shared with government, and efforts are underway to secure ministerial engagement and translate findings into practice.

PA also welcomed two new trustees: Stuart Englund, bringing government and corporate affairs expertise, and Dr James McClure, a nationally recognised consumer researcher, amplifying lived experience leadership.

## **Insight to Impact Symposium**

In partnership with Mindgardens Neuroscience Network, PA co-hosted the Insight to Impact Symposium.

While the event faced financial challenges, it delivered meaningful impact, including a new position paper, *Enhancing Psychosis Research: Addressing Gaps in Knowledge, Lived Experience Inclusion and Implementation*, which calls for stronger funding, greater lived experience leadership, and faster translation of research into care.

## Advocacy in Focus

PA's advocacy remained a strong focus, with Chair Rob Ramjan AM highlighting the resignation of 205 psychiatrists in NSW as a stark signal of chronic underfunding, reinforcing PA's call for urgent investment and systemic change.

Planning commenced on the 2025 Psychosis Australia Conference. To be held in Brisbane, the conference will once again showcase international research, innovations in clinical practice, and lived experience perspectives.

PA was also commissioned by Boehringer Ingelheim, with Deakin University, to produce a national report on schizophrenia and cognitive impairment. Led by Professor Alison Yung and Dr Carl Moller. Findings from the report are due in late 2025.

## Looking Ahead

In 2025-2026, with strengthened governance, lived experience leadership, and landmark research projects underway, PA will remain dedicated to transforming psychosis research into better outcomes for individuals, families, and communities.

For more information about Psychosis Australia, visit [psychosisaustralia.com.au](https://psychosisaustralia.com.au).



**Psychosis  
Australia**



# Our People



## Our Board

Claire Moore – Independent Chair  
Brien Hallett – Mental Health Foundation ACT  
Ann White – MIFWA  
Vanessa Harris – MIFANT (Resigned in November 2024)  
Danielle Hornsby – selectability  
Luciana Baronio – MIFANT  
Holly Blatman KC – Karakan  
Adam McCallum – Skylight Mental Health (Resigned in November 2024)  
Carolyn MacKay – Skylight Mental Health  
Rob Ramjan AM – Independent Board Member

## Our Team

Tony Stevenson – National Chief Executive Officer  
Donna Didlick – Project Director  
Ilyse Elphick – Operations Manager  
Crystal Heffron – Project Lead  
Hayley Harris – Lived Experience Lead  
Juliana Foxlee – Research & Policy Advisor  
Daniela Bradley – Lived Experience Trainer  
Charli Sargeant – Lived Experience Project Officer  
Michael Cowan – Administration Officer  
Lauren Springs – Out From The Mist Project Officer

## Our Volunteers

Bev Turnbull  
Garth Elphick

## MIFA Member CEOs

Chris Ward – Mental Health Foundation ACT  
Lorraine Davies – MIFANT  
Monique Williamson – MIFWA  
Debra Burden – selectability  
Paul Creedon – Skylight Mental Health  
Cameron Thayer – Karakan

## Psychosis Australia Board of Trustees

Robert Ramjan AM – Chair  
Tony Stevenson – Secretary  
Kerry Hawkins – Trustee  
Zoe Black – Trustee  
Dr Justin Chapman – Trustee  
Stuart Englund – Trustee  
Dr James McLure – Trustee  
Professor Dan Siskind – Trustee & Chair of Research Advisory Council

## Our Groups

MIFA Co-Design Team  
Perspectives 2025 Committee  
Finding North Website Co-Design Team  
Training Development Group  
Rights in Action Training Co-Design Group



# Our Sponsors

**We acknowledge and thank our sponsors for their ongoing support throughout the year.**

Your contributions have enabled us to play a key role in leading reform in the mental health sector, expanding our programs, providing vital resources, and advocating for impactful policies.

Together, we are continuing to build a community that prioritises mental well-being and amplifies the voices of those affected by mental health conditions, including their families and caregivers.

We look forward to continuing this journey with you, fostering hope and resilience in every individual we reach. Thank you for being an integral part of our mission and making a lasting impact.

Boehringer Ingelheim  
Brisbane City Council – Councillor Vicky Howard  
Department of Health and Aged Care  
Department of Social Services  
Janssen Pharmaceuticals  
Lundbeck Australia and Otsuka Australia  
Media Key  
Mental Health Online  
Micah Projects

Princess Pictures  
Profile  
Queensland Mental Health Commission  
Relton Co Pty Ltd  
Seqirus  
Serif  
Servier Laboratories  
Steve Parish Nature Connect  
The Yorke Family Foundation

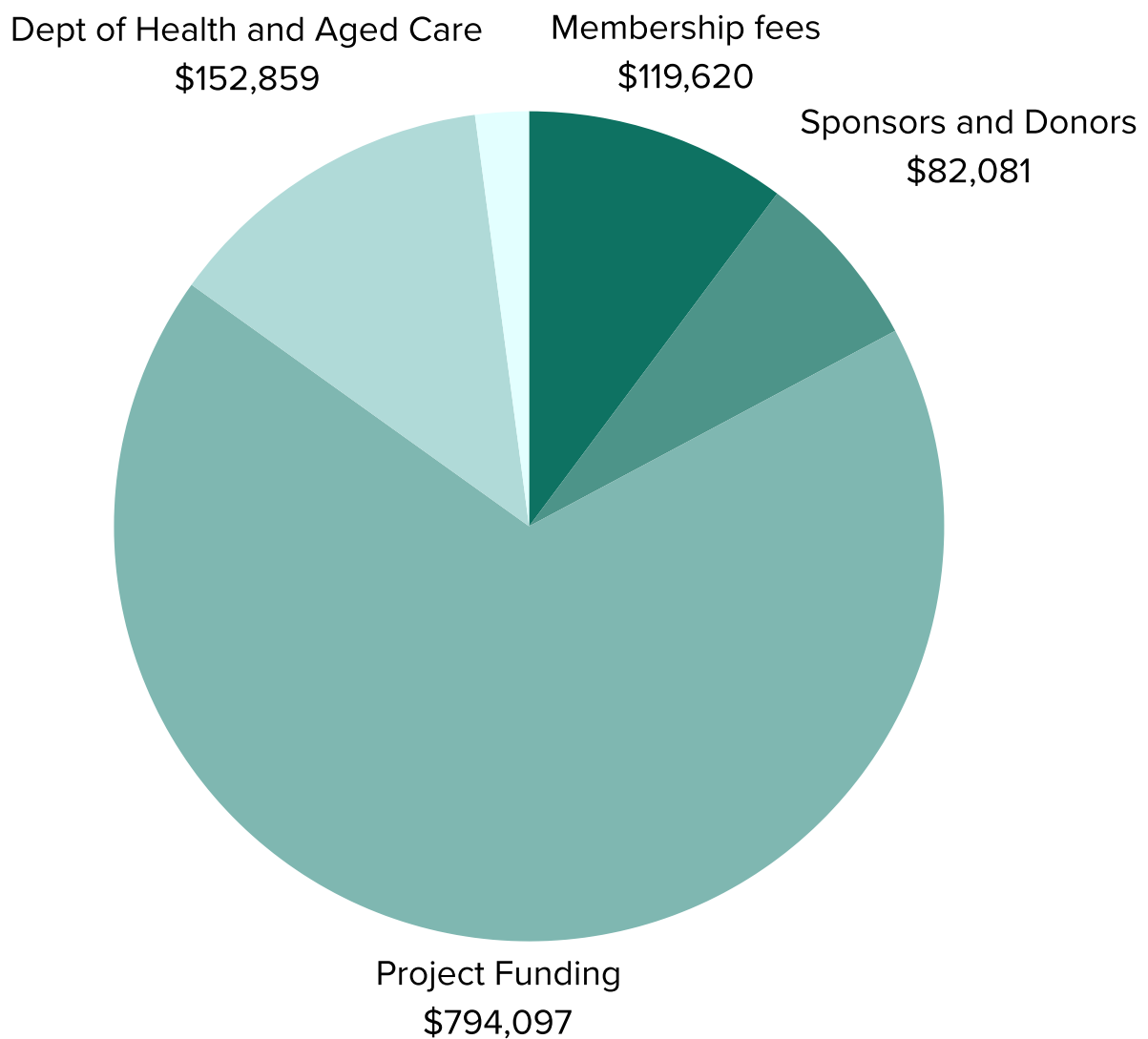


# Financial Summary

Over the 2024-2025 Financial Year, MIFA’s revenue was bolstered through, sponsorships, donations, and government grants.

We continued to be supported by the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care. Additionally, funding through the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) Program supported Finding North, Finding North Network and the Perspectives 2025 Lived Experience e-Symposium.

The full audited financial statement is available on the MIFA website.





**MIFA**

[www.mifa.org.au](http://www.mifa.org.au)

