



NETWORKS

PODCASTS

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

WEBINARS



Acknowledgement of Country

The Mental Health Professionals' Network (MHPN) respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung people of the Kulin nation, the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which our office is situated, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Through our various programs, MHPN is committed to working with mental health practitioners who support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Mental Health Professionals' Network

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Introduction

This year has been one of regeneration and rebuild – particularly in the National Networks Program, where an appetite to return to in-person network meetings has been strong, with many networks starting to meet again after substantial hiatuses.

Interest in MHPN Professional Development Webinars and Podcasts has also been very strong, with topics covered reflecting the key interest areas of Australian practitioners.

MHPN's three programs have continued to innovate and adapt this year to support practitioners to

engage in interprofessional networking, peer support and professional development.

A key achievement this year, the second Online Conference exceeded expectations, promoting the range of benefits of engaging with MHPN to a wider audience.

Interdisciplinary
practitioner
networking,
both in-person
and online

Professional
development
webinars,
livestreams and
recordings

Podcast
program, available on
our website
and all major
platforms

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The following is an extract from MHPN's Board-endorsed Strategic Directions 2021-23.

MHPN works to strengthen the primary health workforce to improve referral pathways and practitioner expertise by promoting interdisciplinary practice and collaborative care.

MHPN engages general practitioners, psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses both mental health and general, social workers, occupational therapists, counsellors and a range of related health practitioners working in primary care, in public and private settings and in communities across Australia.

With its unique national workforce platform and focus on interdisciplinary practice, MHPN is well positioned to play a role in the critical task of mental health workforce development into the future.

MHPN activities purposely cross boundaries of discipline, mode of practice (private and public), and location, to encourage the development of interdisciplinary collaboration.

Partnerships with key stakeholders are central to the effectiveness of MHPN in terms of practitioner engagement and access to expertise.

In addition to an overarching aim of promoting interdisciplinary practice, MHPN supports practitioners through targeted work in specific areas. These include:

- practitioners working in regional, rural and remote communities
- the intersection of mental and physical health
- working to improve mental health care for older Australians
- building awareness and more effective responses of practitioners to their emotional health
- wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and with CALD communities
- self-care for mental health practitioners.

MHPN is a not-for-profit organisation funded by the Australian Government Department of Health.

The four member organisations and four partner organisations that actively support MHPN have been integral to the initiative's success. They are respectively: Australian Psychological Society, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, and The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses; and Australian Association of Social Workers, Occupational Therapy Australia, Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine and Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia.



A Foreword from the Chair and CEO



In very good news for MHPN's highly valued, interdisciplinary National Networks and Online Professional Development Programs, we were advised in the wake of the May 2023 Federal Budget that program funding would continue through to 30 June 2026.

In 2022-23, MHPN saw a reinvigoration of its National Networks Program, following the challenges of the pandemic and other significant environmental events. Program activity continued to demonstrate growth in peer support topics, with an ongoing emphasis on self-care for practitioners and their communities.

Throughout the year, MHPN maintained its commitment to targeting key areas of need, experiencing growth in program activities focused on older Australians, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and mental and physical health.

Engagement in topics around peer support and self-care continued, while greater interest emerged in lived experience, neurodiversity, and trauma-informed care.

Participation across the Online Professional Development Programs remained strong, with the support of new and established partner organisations. The Webinar Program attracted 13,586 participants to live broadcasts and an additional 13,522 views of the subsequent recordings, representing the strongest participation level since the pandemic began.

This year the Podcast Program celebrated the release of its 60th episode, and surpassed 79,000 listens across all episodes – a 73% increase from the previous year.

In March, our second online interdisciplinary conference, "All Together Better", attracted over 2,000 delegates and 11,000 session attendances across the three-day program that featured 20 scheduled sessions and 52 presenters.

The conference explored the profound impact of climate disasters and the pandemic on the social determinants of health and mental wellbeing, receiving universally positive feedback.

We are pleased to announce our plans for a third conference in 2025.

Our National Networks Program showed steady engagement, with 23 new networks established and 81 reinvigorated following a 1–2+ year pause. By the end of the year, meeting and attendance numbers had returned to levels more comparable to those pre-pandemic.

The establishment of specialised state- and national-based online networks supported interdisciplinary growth and engagement from new audiences. Meanwhile, local meetings saw a resurgence of face-to-face attendance, fostering a return to the valuable in-person connections that have always been a distinctive feature of our National Networks Program.

The launch of our Insight Advisory Service has proven to be a promising initiative, offering mental health organisations unique opportunities to connect with our extensive network of practitioners. Positioned for growth, this innovative program can facilitate valuable insights, feedback and input from practitioners on a wide range of crucial issues.

The MHPN member portal has evolved into an integral function for over 40,000 members who have joined, where they can register for program activities, access network directories, download their CPD statements, and personalise their member profile. We look forward to implementing enhancements across this growing platform in the coming year.

We also look forward to working closely with PHNs around the country in strengthening mental health practitioner capability.

MHPN's achievements this year were made possible by the ongoing active support of our many stakeholders. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the considerable contribution from our member organisations, the Australian Psychological Society, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists and the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses, and our partner organisations, including the Australian Association of Social Workers, Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, Occupational Therapy Australia and Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia.

Our thanks goes to our Board Directors, external advisors to the MHPN Evaluation, Finance, Audit and Risk, and Quality Assurance and Clinical Education Committees, as well as to the many expert practitioners who have provided energy and expertise across all our programs.

The National Networks Program would not be possible without the 350+ volunteer network coordinators, whose diligence and dedication are pivotal to the Program's success, and for this, we offer our sincere thanks.

Finally, and importantly, as Chair and CEO we extend our deepest gratitude to our hard working MHPN staff, who continue to make a significant difference.

MHPN anticipates there will be ongoing external events that will continue to challenge the mental health workforce. In response, we remain committed to evolving to achieve our aim of providing programs that both promote interdisciplinary practice and support practitioners in working together better around Australia.

We look forward with optimism to the year ahead.

John Rasa
Chair, MHPN

Chris Gibbs
Chief Executive Officer, MHPN

Achievements 2022-2023

NETWORKS



366

NETWORKS
SUPPORTED



35%

IN RURAL AND
REGIONAL AREAS



190

SPECIFIC INTEREST
NETWORKS



834

MEETINGS HELD



7,035

NETWORK
MEMBERS



10,019

MEETING
ATTENDANCES



353

NETWORK
COORDINATORS

PODCASTS



24

EPISODES
PRODUCED



36,151

LISTENS ACROSS
ALL EPISODES



73%

INCREASE IN LISTENS
FROM PREVIOUS YEAR



4.5 out of 5

AVERAGE STAR RATINGS
FROM FEEDBACK SURVEYS

Achievements 2022-2023

CONFERENCE 2023



2,053

DELEGATES



11,150

CONFERENCE
ATTENDANCES

WEBINARS



17

WEBINARS
PRODUCED



13,586

ATTENDEES



43,530

WEBINAR RECORDING VIEWS
(COMPLETE LIBRARY)

ONLINE CONNECTIONS



42,154

SUBSCRIBERS TO MHPN CONNECT
(eNEWS)



31

PHNs RECEIVE
RELEVANT MHPN NEWS



13,941

FACEBOOK
PAGE LIKES



120,086

LINKEDIN
CONNECTIONS



40,850

PORTAL
ACCOUNTS

Online Conference 2023

ALL
TOGETHER
BETTER

Collaborative Mental Health Care
in a Changing World

“It was an amazing opportunity to enhance my knowledge on the gaps within mental health support, provide new ideas to improve on practice and the direction mental health is going in the future.

Overall it was a great learning experience.”

~ COUNSELLOR,
REGIONAL VICTORIA

MHPN’s very successful Online Conference, All Together Better, Collaborative Mental Health Care in a Changing World attracted over 11,000 attendances from 2,000 delegates over its three-day program in March 2023.

THE THEME RESONATED WITH PRACTITIONERS

The Conference explored how the social determinants of our health; the places where we live, work, learn and play; have been irrevocably impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and a range of extreme, climate-related weather events.

The focus centred on how collective and individual experiences over recent years have particularly affected mental health service providers and their clients.

INNOVATIVE PROGRAM – DELIVERED 100% VIRTUALLY

Delegates attended four different activity streams. Each stream provided a different lens and format through which delegates could consider, reflect, and build their own capacity in relation to the Conference's overarching theme.



FOUR THINK TANKS

Provided delegates with a macro lens through which to reflect on the Conference's themes.

Opening address | Hypothetical | Debate | Panel discussion



FIVE MINDFULNESS SESSIONS

These sessions were led by an experienced mindfulness practitioner and allowed delegates to take time for self-care.



FIVE COLLAB LABS

Supported delegates to explore the theme actively and collaboratively, through a micro lens, by looking at cohorts impacted by:

Eating Disorders | Family Violence | Social Isolation and Loneliness | LGBTIQ+ Mental Health | Perinatal Mental Health



SIX NETWORKING HUBS

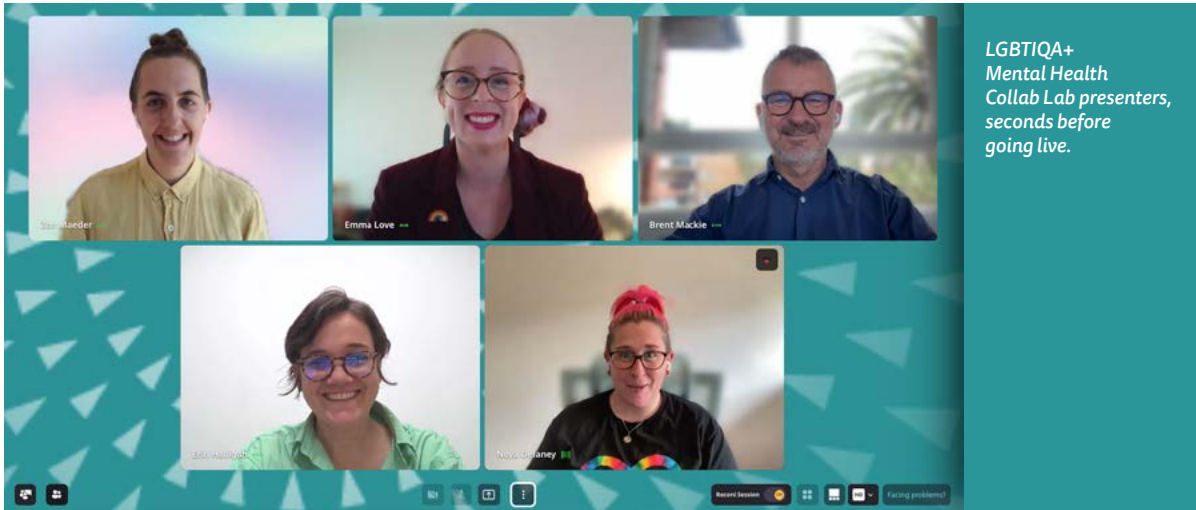
The hubs were linked to the Collab Lab subject areas, providing delegates with the opportunity to learn about, join or establish an MHPN network, and to seek more information or resources about the various fields.

52 PRESENTERS DELIVERED 30+ HOURS OF CONTENT, ACROSS 20 SESSIONS

The three-day Conference provided opportunities both within the scheduled program and outside of scheduled activities to network with other delegates, mental health organisations and MHPN representatives.

DELEGATES REPRESENTED 23 PROFESSIONS, FROM MORE THAN 900 LOCATIONS ACROSS AUSTRALIA

While delegates represented practitioners from a range of professions and locations, two-thirds were Psychologists, Social Workers, Counsellors, Mental Health Nurses and Occupational Therapists.



DELEGATES FOUND THE CONFERENCE RELEVANT AND ATTENDING INCREASED THEIR KNOWLEDGE

Delegates rated their satisfaction with the Conference overall very highly. In the feedback survey:

- three-quarters indicated the Conference topics were relevant to their work practice and that attending had increased their knowledge.
- almost two-thirds said the Conference completely met their expectations.

PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO NETWORK

The Networking Hubs, Delegate Lounge and Virtual Exhibition Hall provided delegates the opportunity to network in both a structured and organic way, with each other, MHPN and other organisations. Across the three days, hundreds of delegates interacted with each other by sending direct messages, visiting exhibition booths and attending networking hubs.

COLLABORATION WAS A KEY CONTRIBUTOR TO SUCCESS

MHPN would like to thank all presenters, hosts and moderators, supporting organisations, exhibition booth holders, and our production company JT Production Management for their contributions and support in planning and delivering MHPN's second online conference.

“Thank you for providing such an innovative online learning opportunity. If it was face to face, I would not have been able to attend as it would take too much out of my workload time.”

~ OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST,
NORTHERN NSW



“The presenters were all excellent and the mindfulness sessions were wonderful. The broad range of topics was very interesting. The broad range of session times, i.e. morning to early evening was helpful.”

- SOCIAL WORKER, ACT

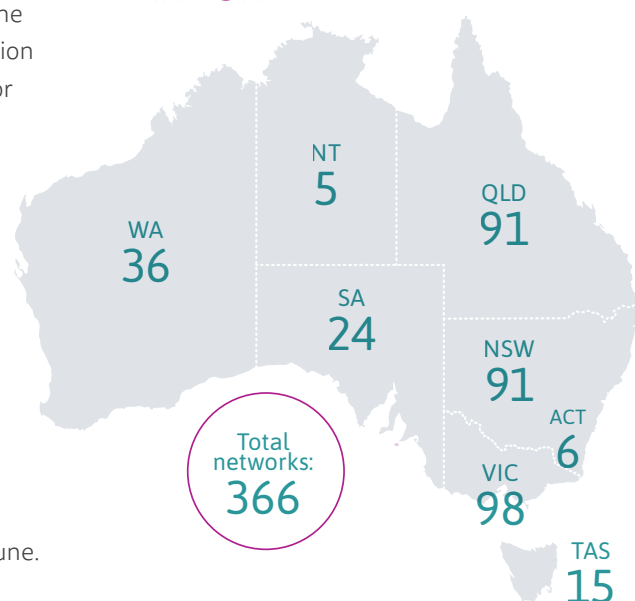
National Networks Program

In 2022-23, the National Networks Program continued to experience steady engagement, demonstrating its resilience and sustainability after several challenging years. The program supported 366 networks across Australia, 23 of which were newly established, reaffirming the program's ongoing relevance in the evolving mental health landscape.

Over the year, the program attracted 10,019 attendances across 834 meetings, confirming the continuing demand for interdisciplinary networking opportunities within the mental health practitioner community. This participation highlights the program's role as a valuable platform for mental health practitioners to access networking, peer support, and professional development opportunities.

An enthusiasm among network members to meet in-person was noted this year. After several years of predominantly meeting online, mental health practitioners craved the interpersonal connections facilitated by face-to-face interactions. The renewed eagerness for in-person meetings, combined with the popularity of online meetings, saw MHPN record its most successful quarter since the pandemic, with 252 network meetings held in the quarter ending 30 June.

NETWORKS BY STATE AND TERRITORY



NETWORK REINVIGORATION A SUCCESS

One of the main reasons networks tend to stop meeting is when the volunteer coordinator steps down and the role is vacant for some time. In 2022-23, the networks team reinvigorated 81 networks that hadn't met for more than a year, by recruiting and working with the current or new coordinator to resume meeting.

MHPN's strategy to stay connected to networks while they weren't meeting has proven successful. It has resulted in an ability to restart activity quickly when the network is ready.

Of note, more than a third of the reinvigorated networks were originally established when MHPN first started in 2010, demonstrating the enduring value that practitioners attribute to participating in these networks.

PEER SUPPORT REMAINS PIVOTAL

Throughout 2022-23, peer support remained the most popular meeting topic, reflecting in meeting and attendance numbers.

Top 3 meeting topics 2022-23

Meeting topic	Meetings	Attendances
Peer support	281	1,578
Treatment and intervention focused	119	1,655
Trauma	54	1,101

Notably, there was a 70% increase in the number of peer support meetings in 2022-23 compared to 2018-19.

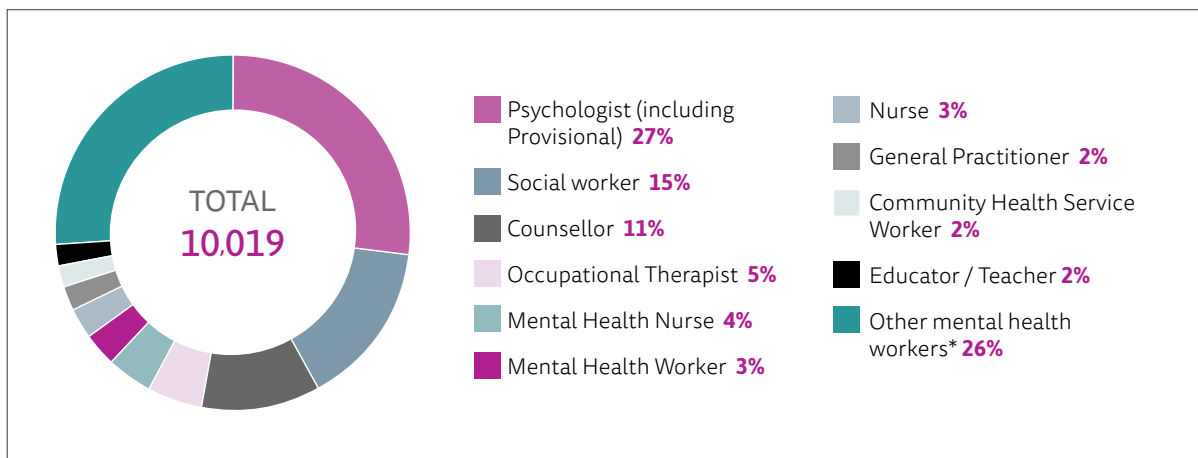


NETWORKS SHOWCASE INTERDISCIPLINARY PARTICIPATION

Pleasingly, networks attract members from a vast range of professions. Across the National Network Program, more than 35 different professions have been represented at network meetings.

As the graph shows, the highest representation comes from psychologists, social workers and

counsellors. It is interesting to note that specific interest networks often attract practitioners from outside those with a primary focus on mental health, for example Diabetes and Mental Health Networks are of interest to dietitians, physiotherapists and exercise physiologists.



*Other mental health workers includes: Aboriginal Health / Mental Health Workers, Art Therapists, Carers/Support Workers, Dietitians, Disability Services, Emergency Services, Exercise Physiologist, Health Promotion Officers, Medical Doctors, Mental Health Peer Workers, Midwives, Physiotherapists, Psychiatrists & Psychiatry Registrars, Rehabilitation Counsellors, Researchers, Speech Pathologists, Youth Workers

COORDINATORS REMAIN THE KEY TO NETWORK SUCCESS

The National Networks Program was supported by a dedicated group of 353 volunteer network coordinators. Over the course of the year, 40 new coordinators took on the role. Coordinators' efforts remain a fundamental cornerstone of the Program's success, and MHPN's Board and staff hold their passion, resilience and commitment to improving interdisciplinary mental health care in the highest regard. MHPN would like to express our thanks and appreciation for their valuable contributions.

Celebrating 10+ years of network coordination

Each year MHPN acknowledges the network coordinators who have dedicated over 10 years of voluntary service to MHPN, with 11 making this remarkable achievement this year. This extraordinary investment of time and passion has been pivotal to the National Networks Program's success. We extend our thanks to this group for their outstanding support and congratulate them on *over a decade* of fulfilling a crucial role in fostering interdisciplinary practice.

National Volunteer Week Acknowledged Coordinators

As part of Australian Volunteer Week, The Change Makers, MHPN organised three different self-care sessions exclusively for MHPN Coordinators.

These sessions featured fun self-care activities, and importantly also provided the opportunity to highlight and thank coordinators for their many hours of their own time they volunteer to lead their network. The sessions included breathwork, meditation and art therapy and were all very well received.

MHPN plans to run more events to help coordinators connect with each other going forward.



Stock photo

“Having a community and network as a mental health professional practitioner is so super important. For the last two years, I’ve been coordinating the local Mental Health Professionals’ Network Footscray Youth Network after years of participating in other local groups.

Today I finally got to meet in person the (MHPN Project Officer) who has been helping me with the network and supporting me through every step of the way.

This network has had some amazing guest speakers sharing their wisdom and knowledge with the group.

For me, being part of the network has allowed me to get to know other people in various roles that can support me and my clients or vice versa, while also building some camaraderie between mental health and medical professionals.”

MARIE VAKAKIS,
COORDINATOR FOOTSCRAY YOUTH NETWORK

ONLINE MEETINGS – A CONVENIENT WAY TO MEET AN IMPORTANT NEED

Meeting online remains a popular option for many networks. Doing so allows practitioners from different locations to easily attend meetings of interest to them. Of the 10 most well attended meetings, nine were held online, highlighting the widespread practitioner reach this mode offers. As the table shows, these featured a diverse range of meeting topics.

Network name	Meeting topic	No. of attendees
Online Mental Health-Substance Use	<i>Eating Disorders and AOD</i>	125
Brisbane Infant, Child, Youth and Family Seminar Series (ICYFSS) Network	<i>Infant, Child, Youth, and Family Seminar Series: School Refusal and Disengagement</i>	121
Australian Defence Force Centre for Mental Health and MHPN Online MH 30+30	<i>Moral Injury: A New Dimension to Trauma</i>	99
Infant and Child Mental Health Community of Practice	<i>Where Do We Begin: Case Discussion Exploring Practice Strategies for Infant and Toddler Assessment</i>	86
Online Victorian Emergency Workers & Mental Health Community of Practice	<i>The Role of Diagnosis in Managing Trauma: Making Sense of PTSD, Complex PTSD and Other Trauma-Related Presentations</i>	74
Online Emerging Psychedelic-Assisted Psychotherapy and Plant Medicine	<i>Introduction to The Australian Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Practitioners</i>	71
ADF Centre for Mental Health and MHPN Online MH 30+30	<i>Cognitive Therapy for PTSD</i>	70
Perth Complex Trauma	<i>Innovations in Complex Trauma Treatment</i>	67
Perth Complex Trauma	<i>Dissociation in the Presentation of Complex Posttraumatic Disorders: Detection and Assessment</i>	63

Undoubtedly, the past year has accelerated the adoption of online meetings and revealed network members' continued desire to connect in this way.

Supporting networks to meet online provides benefits including:

- **Diversity of meeting topics:** Online meetings are held across a wide array of meeting topics, offering practitioners a variety of choice
- **Enhanced access:** Network members have greater access to an expanded range of special interest topics and experts
- **Easy for guest speakers to present from far away:** Presenters don't need to travel to present at meetings
- **Convenient and easy for busy practitioners:** Online meetings cater to the schedules of busy practitioners, providing flexibility
- **Accessibility in rural and remote areas:** Without geographical barriers, practitioners in rural and remote areas have the option to attend more meetings.

In the coming year, the National Networks Program will focus on harnessing the benefits of online meetings while taking further steps to strengthen these for member networking.

Charters Towers Network

The Charters Towers Network, under the leadership of local psychologist Suellen Skinner, started meeting again – the first time since Covid.

Located one and a half hours from Townsville, and 14 from Brisbane, the network provides an important forum for local practitioners to connect and discuss the issues unique to their community.

The network aims to enhance communication between practitioners working in their small community, where services are very limited. The opportunity to learn about how each service operates is very highly valued. The group includes those working in disability services, psychology, general practice, and education.

With two meetings already held, Suellen is already planning for the next meeting and the group aims to meet every two months.

National Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Community of Practice

In partnership with Emerging Minds, MHPN this year established a national network for practitioners who work with families to support infant and child mental health.

This Community of Practice facilitates interdisciplinary professional development and networking. It complements Emerging Minds' existing resources, including online courses, webinars, podcasts, videos and more, by providing an interactive forum for discussions about infant and child mental health.

The network's aim is to support practitioners to connect, foster peer learning, and integrate learning through reflective practice discussion. The online interactive format will enable participants to ask

questions and deepen their understandings by sharing their experiences and discussing short video case studies.

Interest in the network is high with just over 240 practitioners joining the network, and 100 attending the first meeting at the end of June 2023.



Online Professional Development – Webinar Program

MHPN's Webinar Program delivers professional development activities that showcase an interdisciplinary approach to providing mental health care.

During the 2022-23 year, the Program produced a total of 17 professional development webinars, collectively attracting over 13,586 participants to the live broadcasts and an additional 13,522 recording views in the Webinar Library. The Program featured 76 presenters from 22 professions.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR

Lived experience panellists make a positive impact

Practitioners attending webinars have indicated they place high value on the perspective of panellists with lived experience. This year the Webinar Program featured 12 panellists with a lived experience. The audience consistently provided feedback that they valued the unique insights that these panellists provided to the discussion.

Milestone number of recording views

The milestone of almost half a million views of MHPN webinar recordings was reached during the year. As at 30 June 2023, the library held 195 recordings – with the first from December 2010. In June 2023, the 455,656th view was recorded. The library continues to be one of the most visited parts of the website.



HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR (continued)

Celebrating five years of partnering with Emerging Minds

MHPN's highly successful partnership with Emerging Minds celebrated its 5th year and has been confirmed to continue into 2023–24.

To 30 June 2023, the partnership has designed and broadcast 32 webinars, attracting 31,215 attendances.

Stay tuned for what is sure to be an exciting 2023–24 program.

First webinar broadcast for the Black Rainbow Partnership

The Black Rainbow Queeroboree webinar series continues to be a great success. This series aims to help practitioners better support the mental health and social and emotional wellbeing needs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ+SB community.

During the year, two webinars were broadcast, with the first in August looking at the Impact of Covid-19 on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Supporting children who have disclosed trauma (Emerging Minds)
 "Such an excellent panel. Such high-quality presentations and answers. Not a single word of this webinar was superfluous, every word packed a punch!"

~ COUNSELLOR, ADELAIDE

LGBTIQ+SB Community. In November 2022, Improving Inclusive Practice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ+SB people was broadcast. More than 1,000 practitioners attended these broadcasts.

The Queeroboree series will conclude in 2023–24.

Partnership with Comcare continued

MHPN supported Comcare to deliver its second in a series of webinars this financial year. To date the series has attracted over 2,000 practitioners to the live broadcasts, and a subsequent 1,400 views of the recordings. Further webinars are anticipated in 2023–24.

2022–23 WEBINAR PROGRAM ACTIVITY

	Department of Health funded	Produced in partnership with MHPN
No. of webinars	7	10
Registrations	14,095	17,380
Attendees	6,458	7,128
Library recordings, webinars produced in 2022–23	9,270	4,252
Library recordings, all webinars produced to 30 June 2023 (inc. Conference)	33,019	10,511

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH-FUNDED PROGRAM CONTENT

The Department of Health funded program continues to remain relevant, with topics that address the current needs of practitioners working in mental health. Of interest, each panel included a presenter with a lived experience.

Date	Title	No. of attendees
6 July 2022	Collaborative care for people living with tics and Tourette syndrome	561
4 October 2022	Complexities in working with co-occurring mental health and alcohol and other drug presentations	733
17 October 2022	Navigating mental health challenges when living with a physical disability	533
7 November 2022	It's never too late to diagnose ADHD	1,270
27 February 2023	Mental health and wellbeing in autistic youth and young adults during transitions	1,256
13 April 2023	Borderline Personality Disorder: Translating evidence into practice	1,368
28 June 2023	Supporting the mental health of bereaved parents after miscarriage, stillbirth and neonatal deaths	737

WEBINAR AUDIENCE BY PROFESSION

MHPN's Department of Health funded webinars continue to attract practitioners from a range of disciplines. The following graph indicates attendances by profession.



*Other mental health workers includes: Aboriginal Health/Mental Health Workers, Art Therapists, Carer / Support Workers, Community Health Services Workers, Dietitians, Disability Services, Emergency Services, Employment Services, Exercise Physiologists, GP Registrars, Health Promotion Officers, Lawyers/Solicitors, Medical Doctors, Mental Health Peer Workers, Midwives, Music Therapists, Pharmacists, Physiotherapists, PIR Support Facilitators, Psychiatry Registrars, Psychotherapists, Rehabilitation Counsellors, Researchers, Support Worker, Speech Pathologists, Youth Workers



PARTNERSHIP WEBINARS

The following webinars were produced as a result of partnerships during the financial year:

Date	Title	Partnership	Attendees
25 July 2022	Practice strategies for working with children with disability	Emerging Minds	644
8 August 2022	The impact of Covid 19 on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ+SB community	Black Rainbow	392
7 September 2022	Supporting children and families to recognise and navigate paediatric anxiety	Emerging Minds	820
2 November 2022	Collaborating with the workplace to enable good work for your patient/client	Comcare	574
3 November 2022	Breaking the Silence: Improving inclusive practice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ+SB people	Black Rainbow	621
17 November 2022	Supporting the social and emotional wellbeing of children with higher weight	Emerging Minds	416
6 December 2022	Non-medical supports and programs to improve older Australians' mental health	PHN Older Persons	522
15 February 2023	Supporting children who have disclosed trauma	Emerging Minds	1,182
8 May 2023	Supporting the mental health of children who experience bullying	Emerging Minds	1,027
6 June 2023	Decolonising mental health when working with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children & families	Emerging Minds	930

THANKS TO PROGRAM CONTRIBUTORS

MHPN would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the facilitators, panellists, partnering organisations, and our production company JPL for their contributions and dedication to supporting the production of high-quality professional development activities throughout the year.

LOOKING AHEAD

The 2023–24 program will continue to provide a range of activities of current clinical interest.

Under the guidance of its Quality and Clinical Education Committee, MHPN looks to ensure the program includes the topics that are top of mind for clinicians.

As well as consulting the Committee, MHPN takes feedback from practitioners attending webinars asking what topics they'd like to see covered in the future. A number have expressed an interest in webinars that consider comorbidities among various conditions, disorders and illnesses.

The impact of Covid 19 on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ+SB community (Black Rainbow, Queeroboree series)

“Deadly! Respectful and sensitive, great job! Heartfelt, emotional, authentic. Thank you so much.”

~ SEWB COUNSELLOR / PSYCHOLOGIST, MELBOURNE

THREE MOST POPULAR WEBINARS

The following webinars are all available for view and download in the webinar library at www.mhpn.org.au

1

It's never too late to diagnose ADHD

2,669
registrations

1,270
attendees

“Excellent webinar. Down-to-earth, plain-speaking experts with obvious compassionate clinical experience.”

1,757
recording views

3,027
total reach

~ OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST, MELBOURNE

2

Borderline Personality Disorder: Translating evidence into practice

3,070
registrations

1,368
attendees

“Very impressed with all the panellists... This has been one of the best webinars I have attended.”

1,139
recording views

2,507
total reach

~ COUNSELLOR, BLUE MOUNTAINS, NSW

3

Mental health and wellbeing in autistic youth and young adults during transitions

2,841
registrations

1,256
attendees

“Amazing shared knowledge, and the lived experience perspective was priceless.”

907
recording views

2,163
total reach

~ PROVISIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST, HUNTER VALLEY, NSW

Online Professional Development – Podcast Program



The Podcast Program provides a platform to showcase good clinical practice and approaches to mental health care.

The Program hosts a range of series that enable exploration and promotion of collaborative interdisciplinary practice – each provides a different lens through which hosts and guests can engage in deep-thinking, reflective, engaging, and spirited conversations.

Now in its third year, it has continued to build on previous success. This year releasing a record 24 episodes, taking the total number available on its two shows: MHPN Presents and Mental Health in Focus, to 60.

THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

More listeners than ever before

Amongst this year's most notable achievements was an astounding 73% increase in the number of listens, compared to last year. The Program also reached a significant milestone in relation to the number of all-time listens, recording its 76,000 episode listen, finishing the year with a total of 76,751 unique listens since the program started in 2020.

Three new series launched

In the first person's first episode dropped in September. This unique series acknowledges the centrality and uniqueness of lived experience perspectives of mental illness. It looks to support mental health practitioners by providing lived experience insights into early warning signs, treatment challenges and key elements to recovery. Four episodes were produced and released during the year, including first person narratives about perinatal mental health, a peer mental health worker's experience, family violence and mental health, and a firefighter's experience of PTSD.

A conversation about launched in October, featuring topic driven, thought-provoking conversations between esteemed clinical experts. So far, the series has included conversations about Family Violence and Mental Health; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, Climate Change and Covid; Young People and Digital Well-being; and Perinatal Mental Health.



Emergency Workers: Responder Assist was a four-part capped partnership series, released on Mental Health In Focus from November 2022 to January 2023. The series looks at the experiences and topics unique to emergency workers, who provide a vital and valuable service to the community.

More episodes of *In the First Person* and *A Conversation About* are already available on MHPN Presents.

Attracting highly-regarded, engaging presenters and hosts

The Program's success is in large part due to the calibre of highly-esteemed presenters and hosts who are willing, able and prepared to take a deep dive into nuanced, personal, reflective conversations.

Original series remain very popular

MHPN Presents' *In Conversation With* and *Book Club* series continue to resonate with listeners, since launching in late 2021 and early 2022 respectively, together attracting 18,310 listens this year.

MHPN Presents' original capped series *Transitions*, and *Trauma and Resilience* also attracted a

significant number of listens during the year, recording over 1,700 and 2,200 respectively.

A new partnership

The *Emergency Workers: Responder Assist* four-part series, released on Mental Health in Focus was the result of a productive and successful partnership between MHPN and Phoenix Australia's Responder Assist – the Centre for Excellence in Emergency Worker Mental Health.

Positive listener feedback

Listeners who took the time to rate MHPN's podcasts via the feedback survey, provided a rating of 4.5 stars, out of a possible 5.



A rating average of
4.5 stars
out of five has been recorded



MHPN podcasts are available on all the major podcast apps, including Apple podcasts, Spotify and Google Podcasts, as well as directly from MHPN's website. Subscribe to be alerted every time a new episode drops.

LISTENERS ARE SPOILT FOR CHOICE

With eight different series currently on offer, MHPN podcasts have something for everyone. Across each series and within episodes of series, the conversations vary according both to the topic being discussed and the relationship between participating practitioners.

The following series, all hosted on MHPN Presents are ongoing, meaning new episodes will be added in the future:

In Conversation With features mental health professionals, advocates, academics, clinicians and people with lived experience, engaging in 'fire-side' conversations, discussing topics of mutual interest and expertise.

A Conversation About features topic driven, thought-provoking conversations between esteemed clinical experts.

In the First Person acknowledges the centrality and uniqueness of lived experience perspectives of mental illness. It looks to support practitioners by providing insights into early warning signs, treatment challenges and key elements to recovery.

Book Club: each episode features a conversation between two mental health practitioners about a book/journal that one of the practitioners identifies has influenced their clinical practice and/or challenged their thinking and which both have read.

The Podcast Program's capped series provide a limited number of episodes about a particular topic.

On MHPN Presents, these include:

Transitions: a series that explores transitions across the lifespan: what they are, how they affect mental health and wellbeing, identifying what we can do individually and collectively to support each others' growth through life's many seasons.

Trauma and Resilience is MHPN's inaugural series, which explores trauma and its relationship with mental health, and also resilience – what it means, how it works and how it can be cultivated.

On Mental Health in Focus, these include:

Eating Disorders: Beyond the Unknown (produced in partnership with the National Eating Disorders Collaboration), is a four-part series co-hosted by a service provider and carer presenting a united and holistic approach to supporting people who are living with an eating disorder.

Emergency Workers: Responder Assist (produced in partnership with Phoenix Australia) is a four-part series, featuring hosts and guests with clinical, research and lived experience expertise exploring the experiences and topics that are unique to emergency workers.

*In Conversation
with Dr Ruth Vine and
Mary O'Hagan*

It was really good. Some of best [episodes] I have heard. Intelligent, no fear in handling opposite perspectives.

~ PSYCHOLOGIST

Marketing and Communications

People are at the heart of MHPN's Programs and drive their success.



With the support of network coordinators and members, and webinar, conference and podcast presenters and audiences, MHPN delivered 73,780 hours of interdisciplinary networking and professional development activity across the year.

This year, marketing and communications have been pleased to creatively use all available channels to promote and celebrate practitioner engagement in all Programs.

OUR CHANNELS INCLUDE:

Connect e-news: a monthly practitioner e-newsletter.

Coordinator Connect: a tailored bimonthly e-newsletter for network coordinators. This is a particularly important tool in remaining connected to coordinators who lead MHPN's Network program.

MHPN's website hosts news articles and general MHPN program information, as well as the ever popular webinar and podcast libraries.

Social media: LinkedIn, Facebook.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR



Record number of LinkedIn followers

MHPN's LinkedIn followers increased by 30% over the year to 120,086. This channel provides an effective way to communicate with practitioners, across both the country and the world.



Subscribers numbers reach a new high

MHPN's email based communication continues to remain a popular way for practitioners to engage with the various programs. Subscribers have the flexibility to choose what information they receive, and many have opted to receive information about all of MHPN's programs.



Word of mouth and the Conference brought new practitioners to MHPN

The Conference provided the opportunity to introduce MHPN to a new audience. More than 600 practitioners who registered for the Conference had not heard of MHPN before.

It is also pleasing to see that many people indicate they register for MHPN's activities on the recommendation of a friend or colleague.



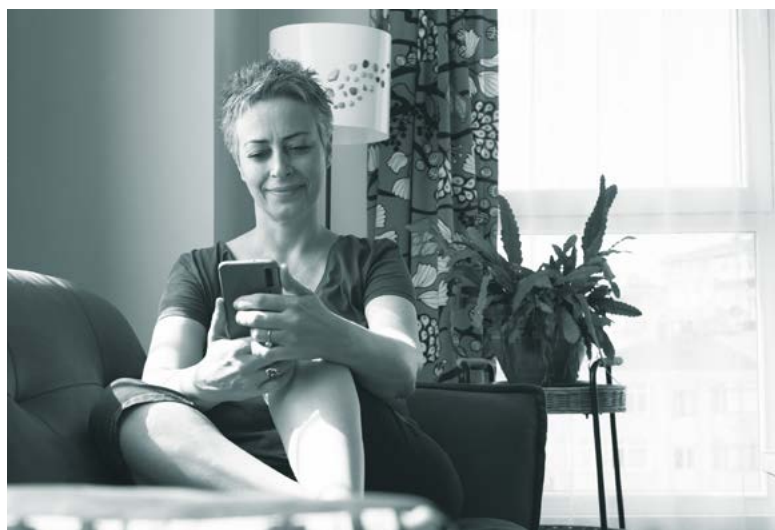
Journal article published

During the year, MHPN's Project Officer Yi Zhai collaborated with Sam Sun, the coordinator of the Metro South Disaster Mental Health Recovery Network, to publish an article in the Australian Journal of Emergency Management. The article showcases how the network provides peer support and professional development to local practitioners.



Brand refresh

A brand refresh introduced some new design elements, including icons and a feature colour for each program. The refreshed brand will be applied to the new website launching in early 2024.



MHPN INSIGHT ADVISORY SERVICE

MHPN's Insight Advisory Service completed a successful project with National Mental Health Commission to recruit and conduct three focus groups of mental health practitioners. The focus groups allowed the Commission to hear directly from practitioners about their experiences of mental health-related stigma and discrimination in their work, providing them the opportunity to contribute their thoughts about what might make a difference in addressing these issues.

The information gathered contributed to the development of the National Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Strategy. Practitioners from rural and remote Australia were recruited for two focus groups, and practitioners with a lived experience of mental ill-health, suicide, distress or trauma recruited for a third session. In total, 32 practitioners participated in the three focus groups.

MHPN looks forward to helping other organisations connect with practitioners to provide feedback on clinical resources, opinions and insights about a range of issues, including challenges to clinical practice, and information to support workforce development in the coming year.

Financial Report

for the year ended
30 June 2023

Mental Health Professionals' Network Ltd
ABN 67 131 543 229 (Incorporated in Victoria
as a company limited by guarantee)

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DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors and officers present their report together with the financial report of Mental Health Professionals' Network Ltd ("the company") for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 and auditor's report thereon.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

Directors

The names of the directors and officers in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:

Name of Director	Appointment	Resignation	Period of Appointment
John Rasa	5/7/2018		
Adrian Armitage	27/2/2023		
Daisy Brooke	18/10/2022	17/3/2023	-
Zena Burgess	22/6/2021		
Vinita Godinho	23/2/2021		
Stephan Groombridge	22/8/2017		
Donna Hansen-Vella	27/4/2021	27/6/2023	-
Stephen Jackson	23/6/2020	13/12/2022	-
Sharon McGowan	28/4/2023		
Morton Rawlin	27/8/2019		To AGM 2025
Jaya Reddy	27/4/2021		

The directors and officers have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Company Secretary

The following person held the position of company secretary during the financial year:

Name	Appointment
Trevor Donegan	31/7/2019

Results

The deficit of the company for the year amounted to \$141,961 (2022: \$217,202 surplus). Current year retained earnings surplus after accounting for all accumulated obligations carried forward totalled \$186,837 (2022: \$328,798).

Review of Operations

The company continued to engage in its principal activities, the results of which are disclosed in the attached financial statements. The company entered into a contract with the Department of Health and Aged Care on 25 August 2023 which extends the life of the project through to 30 November 2026.

Significant Changes in State of Affairs

There were no significant changes in the company's state of affairs during the financial year not otherwise disclosed in this report or the financial statements.

Company Objectives

The company has been established to promote the quality of patient care by:

- supporting and sustaining clinical interdisciplinary groups of mental health professionals working in the primary care sector across Australia, and
- development of a national interactive website that provides online professional development to practitioners working in community mental health.

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the Mental Health Professionals' Network Ltd during the financial year were:

- a) to provide mental health stakeholder support and a coordinated, collaborative forum for issues affecting the following four key professional groups – The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP), The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), The Australian Psychological Society Ltd (APS) and The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses Inc (ACMHN); and
- b) to develop an integrated education and training package in support of collaborative care arrangements in the delivery of primary mental health care. This education and training package is aimed at the key professional groups who are involved in primary mental health care, namely: psychiatrists, general practitioners, psychologists, mental health nurses, paediatricians, occupational therapists and social workers.

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the financial year.

Company Performance

Against the two major objectives, the company achieved the following:

- Against a target of developing, supporting, and maintaining 375 networks by 30 June 2023, a national platform of 366 interdisciplinary community mental health networks had been established and sustained, and
- The project delivered national online professional development of 7 agreed webinars to mental health practitioners across the country. In addition, 9 contracted webinars were provided, targeted to specific practitioner groups.

After Balance Date Events

The company entered into a contract with the Department of Health and Aged Care on 25 August 2023 which extends the life of the project through to 30 November 2026.

Likely Developments

The directors believe that there are no likely developments that will significantly adversely affect the company in the coming year.

Environmental Issues

The company's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory.

Dividends Paid or Recommended

The constitution prohibits the payment of dividends to members of the company. No dividends were paid or declared since the start of the financial year. No recommendation for payment of dividends has been made.

Information on directors

AFFILIATE ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JOHN RASA,
BA, MHP, FCHSM LM, CHE, FAIM, MAICD, FAHRI

Special Responsibilities

- MHPN Chair
- Member of the MHPN Finance, Audit & Risk Committee

Experience

- Deputy Chair, Latrobe Regional Hospital
- Chair and Independent Director, healthAbility Community Health Service
- Unit Chair Healthcare Financing, School of Medicine, Faculty of Health, Deakin University
- Chief Fellowship Examiner (International and Alternative Pathway) Australasian College of Health Service Management

Former roles include:

- Chair and Board Director, Australasian College of Health Service Management
- Chair and Board Member, Box Hill Institute of TAFE
- Member of Victorian Department of Health and Human Services Emergency Access Reference Committee
- Member of Commonwealth Department of Social Services – Carer Gateway Advisory Group
- Chair, Victorian Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance
- CEO, Networking Health Victoria (2013-2016)
- CEO, General Practice Victoria (2010-2012)
- Project Manager, Department of Health Victoria (2004-2010)
- Chief General Manager, Acute Services, Eastern Health (2001-2004)
- CEO, Box Hill Hospital (1996-2001)

ADRIAN ARMITAGE

Special Responsibilities

- Member of the MHPN Finance, Audit & Risk Committee (from 27 February 2023)

Experience

- Chief Executive Officer, Australian College Mental Health Nurses (ACMHN)
- ACT Health Professional Colleges Advisory Committee
- National Nurse and Midwife Health Service (NNMHS) Advisory Group
- Member – Expert Advisory Group for the National Initial Assessment and Referral for Mental Healthcare Project (IAR)
- Member – Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Reference Group (NMSRG)

DAISY BROOKE, BSC(Hons), MSc, PhD, DClinPsych

Experience

- Executive General Manager, Bi-National Offices and Professional Practice (RANZCP)
- Board Director, Victorian Jockey's Association
- Z Zurich Foundation Steering Committee Member

DR ZENA BURGESS, FAPS, FAICD

Experience

- Chief Executive Officer, The Australian Psychological Society
- Deputy Chair, Bully Zero
- Director, Australian Patients Association

VINITA GODINHO, MBA, PhD, GAICD

Special responsibilities

- Member of the MHPN Finance, Audit & Risk Committee

Experience

- General Manager, Policy & Advocacy – The Australian Psychological Society
- Chief Executive Officer, Financial Resilience Australia
- Board Member, Glen Eira Adult Learning Centre

STEPHAN GROOMBRIDGE, BA (Hons)

Special responsibilities

- Chair of the MHPN Evaluation Committee

Experience

- National Manager, eHealth & Quality Care – RACGP
- RACGP Manager for the Commonwealth funded General Practice Mental Health Standards Collaboration (GPMHSC)

DONNA HANSEN-VELLA, BNurs (Psychiatric), BNurs, PGDipN (Mental Health/Psychiatric), PGDip (Family Therapy), MACMHN, MACN, MANMF (Vic Branch), MACSA, MAICD

Special responsibilities

- Member and Chair (to 27 June 2023) of the MHPN Quality Assurance & Clinical Education Committee

Experience

- Chief Mental Health Nurse Barwon Health – Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Services
- Member – Australian College of Mental Health Nurses (ACMHN)
- Safer Care Victoria Mental Health Nursing Advisory Group Member
- Victorian Statewide Senior DON/Mental Health Nurse member

STEPHEN JACKSON,

MdS(T-L), BSc (Computing), MBA (AGSM), MAICD

Special responsibilities

- Chair of the MHPN Finance, Audit & Risk Committee (to 13 December 2022)

Experience

- Chief Executive Officer of the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses (to December 2022)
- Member, National Workforce Strategy Task Force

More recent roles have included:

- Chief Executive Officer, Marathon Health
- Deputy CEO & CFO, Western NSW Medicare Local
- Steering Committee, NSW Health Information Bureau
- Program Manager, Government Relations, National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA)
- General Manager, International Technologies Aust.

SHARON MCGOWAN

Experience

- Chief Executive Officer – Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP)
- Chair of the Australian Living Evidence Consortium

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MORTON RAWLIN,

BMed, MMedSci, FRACGP, FARGP, FACRRM, DipPractDerm, DipMedHyp, DipFP, DipBusAdmin, GAICD

Experience

- General Practitioner based in Melbourne
- Medical Director, Royal Flying Doctor Service, Victoria
- Chair, Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV)
- Member, Phoenix Foundation Education Advisory Committee
- Adjunct Associate Professor in General Practice at the University of Sydney
- Chair, General Practice Mental Health Standards Collaboration (GPMHSC)

DR JAYA PRAKASH REDDY BHAKTI REDDY,

MBBS, MMed (Psy), PhD, FRANZCP

Special responsibilities

- Member of MHPN Evaluation Committee

Experience

- General Adult Psychiatrist (Private Practice) at the Albert Road Clinic
- Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP)
- Senior Lecturer, Department of Psychiatry, University of Melbourne
- Director of self-owned company, Mind Connex Pty Ltd
- Full Member of the Australian ADHD Professionals Association (AADPA)
- Co-investigator of Industry sponsored Research Projects at the Albert Road Clinic
- Honorariums received from – Pharmaceutical Companies – (Shire /Takeda /Lundbeck /Servier / Janssen)

Directors' meetings including committee meetings

The number of meetings of directors (including meetings of the Committees of Directors) held during the year and the numbers of meetings attended by each Director were as follows:

	Directors meetings		Finance, Audit & Risk	
	Attended	Eligible to attend	Attended	Eligible to attend
J Rasa	6	6	6	6
A Armitage	3	3	3	3
D Brooke	3	3	-	-
Z Burgess	2	6	-	-
V Godinho	6	6	5	6
S Groombridge	5	6	-	-
D Hansen-Vella	4	6	-	-
S Jackson	3	3	3	3
S McGowan	2	2	-	-
M Rawlin	4	6	-	-
J Reddy	5	6	-	-

	Evaluation		Quality Assurance & Clinical Education	
	Attended	Eligible to attend	Attended	Eligible to attend
J Rasa	-	-	-	-
A Armitage	-	-	-	-
D Brooke	-	-	2	2
Z Burgess	-	-	-	-
V Godinho	-	-	-	-
S Groombridge	1	3	-	-
D Hansen-Vella	-	-	3	4
S Jackson	-	-	-	-
M Rawlin	-	-	-	-
J Reddy	3	3	-	-

Indemnification of officers

During or since the end of the year, the company has given indemnity or entered an agreement to indemnify or paid or agreed to pay insurance premiums in order to indemnify the directors of the company against legal liability which it may incur through the conduct of its activities or the provision of services.

Further disclosure required under section 300(9) of the *Corporations Act 2001* is prohibited under the terms of the contract.

Options

No options over unissued shares or interest in a company were granted during or since the end of the year and there were no options outstanding at the end of the year.

Indemnification of auditors

No indemnities have been given or insurance premiums paid, during or since the end of the year, for any person who is or has been an auditor of the company.

Auditor's Independence Declaration

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration is provided with this report.

Proceedings on behalf of the company

No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the company or intervene in any proceedings to which the company is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the company for all or any part of those proceedings.

Members' guarantee

The company is incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* as a company limited by guarantee. If the company is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$100 each towards meeting any outstanding debts and obligations of the company. At 30 June 2023, the number of members was 4 (2022:4). The combined total amount that members of the company are liable to contribute if the company is wound up is \$400 (2022: \$400).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



John Rasa
Director

Dated: 24 October 2023, Melbourne

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION



**MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS NETWORK LTD
ABN 67 131 543 229**

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
TO THE DIRECTORS OF MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS NETWORK LTD**

In relation to the independent audit for the year ended 30 June 2023, to the best of my knowledge and belief there have been no contraventions of *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*.

N R BULL
Partner

Date: 24 October 2023

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Melbourne

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STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Revenue	4	2,452,854	2,377,596
Less: expenses			
Administrative expenses		(107,813)	(64,580)
Depreciation	6	(8,385)	(10,347)
Employee benefits	6	(1,782,522)	(1,571,315)
Information Technology		(204,035)	(133,687)
Network expenses		(81,016)	(55,607)
Non-grant webinar expenses	5	(76,052)	(60,625)
Occupancy		(160,379)	(153,196)
Online support expenses		(131,789)	(71,599)
Other expenses		(42,824)	(39,438)
		(2,594,815)	(2,160,394)
(Deficit) / Surplus before income tax expense		(141,961)	217,202
Income tax expense		-	-
Net (deficit) / surplus from continuing operations		(141,961)	217,202
Other comprehensive (loss) / income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive (loss) / income		(141,961)	217,202

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	452,177	682,883
Receivables	8	44,063	13,976
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		496,240	696,859
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant and equipment	9	7,951	14,318
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS		7,951	14,318
TOTAL ASSETS		504,191	711,177
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	10	102,326	148,514
Provisions	11	204,235	221,859
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		306,561	370,373
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	11	10,793	12,006
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		10,793	12,006
TOTAL LIABILITIES		317,354	382,379
NET ASSETS		186,837	328,798
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus	12	186,837	328,798
TOTAL EQUITY		186,837	328,798

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Balance as at 1 July	328,798	111,596
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year	(141,961)	217,202
Total comprehensive income for the year	(141,961)	217,202
Balance as at 30 June	186,837	328,798

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Grant receipts		2,484,173	2,417,702
Other revenue		142,417	223,500
Payments to suppliers and employees		(2,868,236)	(2,435,187)
Interest received		12,958	870
Net (used in) / cash provided by operating activities		(228,688)	206,885
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of plant and equipment		(2,018)	(3,490)
Net cash used in investing activities		(2,018)	(3,490)
Net (decrease) / increase in cash held		(230,706)	203,395
Reconciliation of cash			
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		682,883	479,488
Net (decrease) / increase in cash held		(230,706)	203,395
Cash at end of financial year	7	452,177	682,883

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a general-purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and Australian Accounting Standards Reduced Disclosure Requirements, Interpretations and other applicable authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

The financial report was approved by the directors as at the date of the directors' report.

The financial report is for the company Mental Health Professionals' Network Limited as an individual company. Mental Health Professionals' Network Limited is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Mental Health Professionals' Network is a not-for-profit company for the purpose of preparing financial statements.

The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the company in the preparation and presentation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

(a) Basis of preparation of the financial report

Historical Cost Convention

The financial report has been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by revaluations to fair value for certain classes of assets as described in the accounting policies.

(b) Going Concern

The financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis, which contemplates continuity of normal business activities and the realisation of assets and the settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business.

The company is dependent on the ongoing grant funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care.

The company entered into a contract on 25 August 2023 which extends the life of the project through to 30 November 2026. In the event that an additional phase of funding past 30 November 2026 is not secured, the entity intends to scale down its operations but continue to provide elements of its principal activities to the extent it has resources to do so.

(c) Revenue

Grant revenue is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income when it is controlled. When there are conditions attached to grant revenue relating to the use of those grants for specific purposes it is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until such conditions are met or services provided.

Webinar revenue is recognised upon delivery of the webinars to customers.

Interest revenue is recognised when it becomes receivable on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to financial assets.

Other revenue is recognised where the right to receive the revenue has been established.

All revenue is stated net of goods and services tax (GST).

(d) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and a bank's short-term deposits with an original maturity of three months or less held at call with financial institutions and bank overdrafts.

(e) Unexpended grants

The company receives grant monies to fund projects either for contracted periods of time or for specific projects irrespective of the period of time required to complete those projects. It is the policy of the company to treat grant monies as unexpended grants in the statement of financial position where the company is contractually obliged to provide the services in a subsequent financial period to when the grant is received or in the case of specific project grants where the project has not been completed.

(f) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and purchased assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown as inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

(g) Employee benefits

(i) Short-term employee benefit obligations

Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and any other employee benefits (other than termination benefits) expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the annual reporting

period are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts based on remuneration rates which are expected to be paid when the liability is settled. The expected cost of short-term employee benefits in the form of compensated absences such as annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables in the statement of financial position.

(ii) Long-term employee benefit obligations

The provision for other long-term employee benefits, including obligations for long service leave and annual leave, which are not expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the reporting period, are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflow to be made in respect of the services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee turnover, and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on high quality corporate bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the terms of the obligations. Any re-measurements for changes in assumptions of obligations for other long-term employee benefits are recognised in profit or loss in the periods in which the change occurs.

Other long-term employee benefit obligations are presented as current liabilities in the statement of financial position if the company does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur. All other long-term employee benefit obligations are presented as non-current liabilities in the statement of financial position.

(h) Income tax

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

(i) Financial instruments

Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. For financial assets, this is equivalent to the date that the company commits itself to either the purchase or sale of the asset (i.e., trade date accounting is adopted).

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value adjusted for transaction costs, except where the instrument is classified as fair value through profit or loss, in which case transaction costs are immediately recognised as expenses in profit or loss.

Classification of financial assets

Financial assets recognised by the company are subsequently measured in their entirety at either amortised cost or fair value, subject to their classification and whether the company irrevocably designates the financial asset on initial recognition at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVtOCI) in accordance with the relevant criteria in AASB 9.

Financial assets not irrevocably designated on initial recognition at FVtOCI are classified as subsequently measured at amortised cost, FVtOCI or fair value through profit or loss (FVtPL) on the basis of both:

- (a) the company's business model for managing the financial assets; and
- (b) the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial asset.

Classification of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities classified as held for trading, contingent consideration payable by the company for the acquisition of a business, and financial liabilities designated at FVtPL, are subsequently measured at fair value.

All other financial liabilities recognised by the company are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Trade and other receivables

Consistent with both the company's business model for managing the financial assets and the contractual cash flow characteristics of the assets, trade and other receivables are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

(j) Plant and equipment

Each class of plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment costs.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to present values in determining recoverable amounts.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated over their estimated useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The following table indicates the expected useful lives of non-current assets on which the depreciation charges are based:

Class of fixed assets	Useful lives	Depreciation basis
Office equipment	4 years	Straight Line

(k) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative figures have been reclassified and repositioned for consistency with the current financial year disclosures.

NOTE 2: INCOME TAX

The company, a charitable institution, is endorsed to access the following concessions:

- Income Tax exemption under Subdivision 50-B of the *Income Assessment Act 1997*,
- GST concessions under Division 176 of A *New Tax System (Goods and Services) Act 1999* and,
- FBT rebate under section 123E of the *Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986*.

NOTE 3: ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY

The company is reliant on grant funding from the Commonwealth Government.

At the date of this report, the company has a contract with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care for grant funding from 1 July 2023 to 30 November 2026.

2023
\$

2022
\$

NOTE 4: REVENUE & OTHER INCOME

(a) Revenue from operating activities

- Government grants	2,258,339	2,197,911
- Non-grant webinars	167,600	170,600
- Other Non-grant income	11,256	8,000

(b) Revenue from non-operating activities

- Interest revenue	15,659	1,085
	2,452,854	2,377,596

NOTE 5: NON-GRANT OPERATIONS

Webinars and other O.P.D.:

- Revenue	178,856	170,600
- Employee benefits	(69,231)	(60,943)
- Other expenses	(76,052)	(60,625)

Net contribution to non-grant operations

33,573 **49,032**

NOTE 6: OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Deficit has been determined after:		
Expenses:		
Depreciation	8,385	10,347
Employee benefits:		
– Salaries and wages	1,638,695	1,453,865
– Superannuation	143,827	117,450
	1,782,522	1,571,315

NOTE 7: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash at bank	452,177	682,883
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NOTE 8: RECEIVABLES

Current

Accrued income	2,972	271
Other receivables	41,091	13,705
	44,063	13,976

NOTE 9: PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Office Equipment at cost	40,315	38,297
Less accumulated depreciation	(32,364)	(23,979)
	7,951	14,318

Movement in carrying amounts

Movement in the carrying amount for each class of plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year is set out below:

Office Equipment

Carrying amount at beginning	14,318	21,175
Additions	2,018	3,490
Depreciation expense	(8,385)	(10,347)
Closing amount	7,951	14,318

2023
\$

2022
\$

NOTE 10: PAYABLES

Current

Unsecured Liabilities

– Trade creditors	12,756	39,126
– Income received in advance	–	22,000
– Other payables	73,548	73,340
Amounts payable to members	16,022	14,048
	102,326	148,514

NOTE 11: PROVISIONS

Current

Employee benefits

– Annual leave	98,127	104,418
– Long service leave	106,108	117,441
	204,235	221,859

Non-Current

Employee benefits

– Long service leave	10,793	12,006
	215,028	233,865

NOTE 12: ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

Accumulated surplus at beginning of financial year	328,798	111,596
Net (deficit) / surplus attributable to members of the company	(141,961)	217,202
	186,837	328,798

NOTE 13: MEMBERS' GUARANTEE

The company is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 as a company limited by guarantee. If the company is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$100 each towards meeting any outstanding debts and obligations of the company. At 30 June 2023, the number of members was four. The combined total amount that members of the company are liable to contribute if the company is wound up is \$400.

NOTE 14: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION

Key Management Personnel (KMP) are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the company, directly or indirectly, including any Director of that Company. KMP has been taken to comprise the Directors and the members of the Executive Management responsible for the day to day financial and operational management of MHPN.

(i) Names of Directors in office during or since the end of the year were:

Name of Director	Appointment	Resignation	Re-appointment Date
John Rasa	5/7/2018		
Adrian Armitage	27/2/2023		
Daisy Brooke	18/10/2022	17/3/2023	
Zena Burgess	22/6/2021		
Vinita Godinho	23/2/2021		
Stephan Groombridge	22/8/2017		
Donna Hansen-Vella	27/4/2021	27/6/2023	
Stephen Jackson	23/6/2020	13/12/2022	
Sharon McGowan	28/4/2023		
Morton Rawlin	27/8/2019		13/12/2022
Jaya Reddy	27/4/2021		

(ii) Names of Executives:

C Gibbs (Chief Executive Officer)

S Kleinitz (National Networks Program Manager) to 11/8/2022

K Hoppe (Manager, Communications, Marketing & Strategic Projects)

Compensation of KMP

Aggregated compensation of KMP was as follows:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Short-term employee benefits	374,444	391,169
	374,444	391,169

2023
\$

2022
\$

NOTE 15: AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION

Amounts received or due and receivable by Pitcher Partners for:

- audit services	23,000	20,000
- consultancy	1,000	1,000
	24,000	21,000

NOTE 16: RELATED PARTIES

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

The aggregate amount payable to related parties by the company at balance date is; payable to APS – \$14,592 (2022: \$14,048) and ACMHN – \$1,430 (2022: Nil).

The aggregate amount receivable from related parties by the company at balance date is Nil (2022: Nil).

Transactions with related parties:

Provision of services from members

ACMHN	2,305	1,730
APS	171,686	166,361
RACGP	3,740	1,100
RANZCP	3,872	3,784
	181,603	172,975

NOTE 17: CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS

Operating lease commitments

Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the future statements:

Payable:

- no later than one year	1,400	3,800
- Later than one year but not later than 5 years	-	-
	1,400	3,800

Photocopier for a 24-month period with an option to extend at the end. Payments are paid monthly in arrears.

NOTE 18: EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE

The company entered into a contract with the Department of Health and Aged Care on 25 August 2023 which extends the life of the project through to 30 November 2026. Other than the matter mentioned, there has been no other matter or circumstance, which have arisen since 30 June 2023 that has significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- (a) the operations, in financial years subsequent to 30 June 2023, of the Company, or
- (b) the results of those operations, or
- (c) the state of affairs, in financial years subsequent to 30 June 2023, of the Company.

NOTE 19: COMPANY DETAILS

The registered office of the company is Emirates House, Level 6, 257 Collins Street, Melbourne Vic 3000. ABN 67 131 543 229.

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The directors declare that the financial statements and notes set out on pages 40 to 51 are in accordance with *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*; and

- a) Comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*; and
- b) Give a true and fair view of the financial position of the entity as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.

In the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that Mental Health Professionals' Network Ltd 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.



John Rasa
Director

Dated: 24 October 2023, Melbourne

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS NETWORK LTD
ABN 67 131 543 229

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS NETWORK LTD

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Mental Health Professionals Network Ltd, "the Company", which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Mental Health Professionals Network Ltd, is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* "ACNC Act" and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* "the Code" that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Company's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2023, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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Adelaide Brisbane Melbourne Newcastle Sydney Perth

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)



**MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS NETWORK LTD
ABN 67 131 543 229**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS NETWORK LTD**

Other Information (Continued)

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the ACNC Act and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)



MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS NETWORK LTD
ABN 67 131 543 229

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS NETWORK LTD

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

N R BULL
Partner

24 October 2023

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