

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024

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The Western Australian Association for Mental Health (WAAMH) acknowledges the Whadjuk Noongar people as the traditional custodians of the land and water where WAAMH is situated. We pay respect to elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the ongoing spiritual connection that Aboriginal peoples have to the lands across Western Australia. We also acknowledge the valuable role and voice of people with lived and living experience of mental health challenges, their families and carers.

The Western Australian Association for Mental Health (WAAMH) has been the peak body for community mental health services in Western Australia for nearly 60 years.

WAAMH inspires community attitudes, influences mental health priorities and policies, and implements practice through its mental health promotion, sector development and training, and systemic advocacy work.

OUR VISION

As a human right, every one of us will have the resources and support needed for mental wellbeing,

OUR MEMBERS

- Community-managed organisations providing mental health services, programs or supports.
- People and families with lived or living experience of mental health issues and suicide, with whom WAAMH recovery and citizenship.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



I am very pleased to present to you the WAAMH 2023/24 Annual Report.

In many ways this last year was a year of consolidation and re-grouping for WAAMH as the sector waited for three key federal and state structural transformation enablers that WAAMH have long been advocating for to work through the system.

Federally, the National Partnership Agreement mechanism finally delivered the Psychosocial Unmet Needs Analysis Report, a recommendation of the 2021 Productivity Commission. This report identified about half a million people across Australia every year experiencing moderate to severe distress are currently not getting supports. This is a group WAAMH has consistently and persistently advocated for, particularly throughout our 'Prevent, Support, & Heal' campaign.

Another federal initiative, the NDIS review, identified significant failings with the implementation of the NDIS for participants experiencing unsupported distress. This review has already signalled increased investment in better understanding and responding to the unmet social and economic rights of people who have not been served well by the health system.

Together, these two federal initiatives signal a recognition that investment in community supports can no longer be kicked down the road.

Added to this is the third structural piece; recognition by our state government through the deliverables of the Independent Governance Review that our state mental health system must transform itself and hold itself responsible for delivering contemporary rights-based community supports from a whole-of-government perspective. This transformation, led by the Minister for Health and Mental Health Amber-Jade Sanderson, is the key piece for WAAMH, as all of these investments will need to be enabled, led and co-ordinated locally to ensure local needs are met across the diverse geographic and cultural regions of Western Australia.

Heading towards our 60th anniversary in 2026, WAAMH continues to advocate for exactly the same asks it began with in 1966: community promotion and education about mental health, and the prioritisation of investment in rights-based, recovery-enabling community supports for people experiencing

"This review has already signalled increased investment in better understanding and responding to the unmet social and economic rights of people who have not been served well by the health system."

distress. It has taken nearly 60 years for governments to take responsibility for investing in community supports; it is now our responsibility to pivot from relentless and successful advocacy to focus on change management, building contemporary and capable workforces and data systems, and innovative approaches.

This brings me to the professionalism, purpose, passion and pride of WAAMH's staff ready to take on this challenge, led by our CEO Taryn Harvey. It is important as a mental health organisation that we lead and model for the sector in providing a workplace where people enjoy working together on meaningful endeavours, and it is pleasing to see this continue as WAAMH grows in maturity and complexity. It is an extraordinary privilege to be associated with such a mission-driven team.

I would also like to thank all the Board members for their active, strategic and values-led engagement with WAAMH. We have an extraordinarily committed Board who bring a generosity of time and spirit, a broad range of dynamic sector expertise and a unified commitment to mental health system transformation through a lens of citizenship, equity and humanity that is invaluable and inspiring. This year, we farewelled Pam Bubrzycki from Hope Community Services, who departed to take up a CEO opportunity in another values-based organisation. On behalf of the WAAMH Board I thank her for her thoughtful, productive and significant contributions to WAAMH, and wish her the very best. We were very fortunate to have her for 2 years on the Board.

Finally, I reflect on the importance of you, our members in 2023/24. You are part of a 60-year-old advocacy movement in Western Australia to create and shape an outrageously overdue contemporary needs-adapted mental health system that upholds people's rights. Our work in representing your interests and driving the disruption of an archaic mental health system would not be possible without your highly valued support and steadfast commitment.

The tide has turned, and we will need all hands on deck for the exciting work ahead.

Kerry Hawkins — President

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



As we approach the end of another calendar year, it's time to reflect on the year that was 2023/24 as we present our annual report. Last year we reflected that 2022/23 had been a challenging year for WAAMH both operationally and strategically as we faced capacity constraints and significant strategic and governance uncertainty in the wake of the Independent Governance Review (IGR) of the governance of the health system. Those challenges persisted through 2023/24 though we did see some important developments.

As we reported last year, WAAMH like many of our members has been affected by the gap between the costs of delivering services and outcomes and pricing in key longstanding funding agreements with limited indexation and where price and deliverables have not been negotiated for some time. This has also been reflected in regular grant agreements for annual activities that have failed to increase over time to reflect increases in activity costs.

WAAMH made proactive efforts with funders in 2023/24 to negotiate increased funding to deliver specific outcomes to support the sector and Government with limited success. Before the end of 2023/24 we were pleased to be advised of increases to each of our service agreements with State and Federal Government for 2024/25. While these increases on our longstanding agreements are welcome, they don't reflect the true costs of service delivery, and they have meant missed opportunities to enable WAAMH to increase our capability and capacity to support workforce and sector development and to engage with the breadth of our State-wide membership. At the end of 2023/24 WAAMH completed a restructure of our internal corporate services and our management structure to mitigate some of these challenges.

The announcement in August 2023 of the State Government's response to the IGR's recommendations in relation to mental health brought much welcome resolution about the future of mental health system governance and the role of the Mental Health Commission (MHC). WAAMH welcomed Government's commitment to develop a new five-year mental health and AOD strategy that 'prioritises delivery of a recovery-oriented, community-focused, and integrated system' and to 'prioritise capacity-building and understandings of contemporary approaches to mental health and alcohol and other drug service delivery.' WAAMH believes that this commitment by Government for the future of the system provides an excellent basis for the long-awaited strengthening of the role

"2023/24 saw the continued growth in demand for our training services, particularly our customised training"

of the community managed mental health sector as envisioned back in 2015 with the WA Mental Health and AOD Services Plan 2015 – 2025. WAAMH continues to maintain a focus on advocating for this at every opportunity.

It is now two years since the IGR recommendations were first released in October 2022. In the wake of the preceding disruption and uncertainty it has naturally taken some time for changes in leadership to be bedded down, and for MHC to build momentum in delivering on the reforms committed to. Despite these challenges, we've been pleased at the ongoing availability of the MHC leadership to the sector and to us at WAAMH.

Despite these strategic challenges, WAAMH continued to be responsive in supporting and representing the sector and our other community stakeholders. 2023/24 saw the continued growth in demand for our training services, particularly our customised training, as a range of organisations seek to increase their workforce capacity in relation to mental health and seek to provide a more mentally health workplace. We also saw our WA Mental Health Week campaign continue to grow in engagement and reach and the ongoing success of the WA Mental Health Awards event.

This year also saw us represent the sector in response to the decision to transition to the National Safety and Quality Mental Health Standards for Community Managed Organisations. WAAMH successfully advocated for the formation of a working group to provide advice to the MHC on implementation of the new standards. The group has met over several months since early 2024 and we hope to see that result in a resourced implementation plan to acknowledge the associated costs and to provide support to the sector where required.

I'd like to acknowledge that 2023/24 saw the departure of our Corporate Services Manager, Nigel Barrett. Nigel joined the WAAMH team not long after me in 2018. WAAMH was pleased to be able to support Nigel as a Defence Reservist with the Royal Australian Navy. WAAMH was honoured twice with a Defence Reserves Employer Support Award in the non-government category, thanks to Nigel's nomination. We thank Nigel for his contribution to the organisation and our mission.

As always, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the WAAMH staff for their hard work, dedication

As always, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the WAAMH staff for their hard work, dedication, and mutual support over the 2023/24 year. Thank you also to the Board for your support and guidance, and WAAMH members, for your ongoing engagement and collaboration with us.

Taryn Harvey — CEO

WAAMH BOARD 2023-24



Kerry Hawkins - Chairperson

Kerry is the Chairperson of WAAMH. She has had a professional career in the private and government sectors, including with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and the WA Mental Health Commission (MHC). Her other directorships include Emerging Minds, Mental Health Carers Australia, Community Mental Health Australia, HelpingMinds and the Recovery College of WA. She is Deputy Cochair of the National Mental Health Consumers and Carers Forum and a Commissioner with the National Mental Health Commission. A graduate of Boston University's Global Leadership Institute, Kerry draws on her lived experience as a family member significantly impacted by trauma and unsupported distress.

Deborah Childs – Board Director & CEO of HelpingMinds

With lived personal experience as a mental health carer, Debbie is a tireless advocate for the wellbeing of mental health carers and families. Debbie's commitment to driving change in our communities is unwavering, as she collaborates with the community's knowledge and skills to foster improvements. Debbie brings over 30 years of leadership experience in both large and small commercial and for purpose organisations. Debbie's skill set spans legal, financial, and communications domains. Debbie is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Shaun Mays – Board Director & Rise Director of Strategy and Growth

Shaun Mays is the Rise Network Director of Strategy and Growth and holds an additional Board position with the Sexuality Education Counselling and Consultancy Agency (SECCA). He has 27 years' experience in the human services sector and has held senior management positions for 17 years. Shaun has extensive experience working across child protection, youth, mental health, drug and health sectors; and is passionate about client-centered service delivery and empowering clients to meaningfully take part in service design. He holds qualifications in Business and Social Work (Hons) and has been a member of the Australian Association of Social Work since 2002.

Pamela Bubrzycki - Deputy Chairperson & Chief Services Officer, Hope Community Services

Pam is the Chief Services Officer and Chair of the Clinical Governance Committee at Hope Community Services. She has experience in youth and adult mental health, and is on the Youth Mental Health Sub-Network Committee at the Department of Health. Pam has specialist knowledge in First Episode Psychosis, and residential and community-based mental health services, psychology qualifications, and holds a board position for a large national volunteer organisation. Pam has been instrumental in the implementation of peer supports throughout her career. She understands the challenges and complexities of navigating systems and is a strong advocate for the provision of quality, sustainable services in metropolitan, remote and regional WA.

Due to taking up a new position, Pam resigned from the WAAMH Board in October 2024.

Nicole Jolly – Board Director & Director- Integrated Support, Neami National

Nicole is committed to the delivery and demonstration of robust quality, safety and governance principles, and provision of evidence-based practice. Nicole has a commitment to social justice principles and has worked for 30 years across specialist mental health and trauma services, high risk youth and early psychosis, the government and not-for-profit sectors. Nicole is a qualified social worker, has a Masters in Business Administration from Curtin Graduate School of Business, and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Nicole is on the WAFC Integrity Steering Committee.

Leanne Strommen – Board Director & General Manager of Community Services, Centrecare Inc.

Leanne has a long history of service delivery in mental health. She has extensive knowledge and a comprehensive understanding of the local needs of the community and effective responses pertaining to metropolitan, rural and remote areas. She has more than 27 years of governance experience working within numerous community services governance frameworks at state and national levels. Leanne is a Director at the Western Australian Association for Mental Health, Board member of West Australian Council of Social Services, Director of Family and Relationship Services Australia, agency representative for WA to End Homelessness WA, and the Family Court of WA Reference group.

WAAMH BOARD 2023-24



Tanya Steinbeck – Board Director & Lived Experience Representative

Tanya is the Chief Executive Officer of the Urban Development Institute of Australia in WA. She was previously Executive Director of Regional Services Reform and Transformation to improve the lives of Aboriginal people in regional and remote WA at the Department of Communities. Prior to that, Tanya led the successful implementation of the \$560 million Social Housing Investment Package (SHIP) which ensured the priority wait list for seniors and families with children more than halved and added another 1000 social homes. Tanya has extensive leadership and management experience working in industry associations. She has a high media profile and was featured in the WA Business News Power 500 list of Perth's most influential leaders. Her personal experiences fuel her passion for change in the mental health system.

Claire Timmel – Deputy Chairperson & Lived Experience Representative

Claire has living experience of mental illness since adolescence, and is passionate about advocating for change across the mental health sector, to improve the lives of others. Through the WAAMH Board and other representative positions, Claire seeks to elevate and empower the voice and inclusion of lived experience, addressing mental health and broader social system gaps and driving policy reform. Alongside being a Lived Experience Representative, Claire is a Development Manager who works with government, the private sector and local communities to optimise social and economic outcomes in regional Australia, particularly for vulnerable population cohorts.

Ben Smith – Board Director & Manager Growth & Innovation at Holyoake

Ben is an empathetic and experienced C-suite executive with a proven track record of achievement within the government, not-for-profit, sport business, private equity and consumer goods industries, Ben presents with a diverse skillset that includes both interstate and international experience. He has held a variety of key roles including Chief Operating Officer at international high end fashion label, Poppy Lissiman, Managing Director at hyper growth consumer goods brand, frank green, Global General Manager at privately held luxury goods brand 2XU, and Head of Commercial at not-for-profit, Basketball Australia.

After over a decade living abroad, Ben re-entered the NFP sector in 2023 to follow a calling to deliver real community impact that supports and positively changes lives. He is a proud husband and father of two boys, volunteers within his local community and mentors emerging business leaders. He takes the greatest pleasure in supporting others. He holds multiple Degrees and Awards.

Ben has experienced firsthand the impact of mental health concerns on the family unit and is a passionate advocate for mental health supports.

Monique Williamson – Board Director & CEO of Mental Illness Fellowship West Australia (MIFWA)

Monique Williamson, through MIFWA, is a member of the national organisation Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia (MIFA). Monique has a Masters in Social Change and Development and has completed her MBA. She has worked in community services since 1990, in both the NGO and public sectors in WA. Monique was the inaugural Chairperson of the Mental Health Commission's Individualised Community Living Strategy Panel. It was exploring this new innovative funding model for people who had been living long term in hospital that sparked her interest in contributing to improvements in the mental health sector. As MIFWA's CEO, Monique works alongside people and their families, staff, volunteers, and the Board of Management to develop and implement support and services for people experiencing mental health challenges. Monique has a long-standing interest in services designed through deeper understanding of community need and particularly working with individuals and families to co-design effective individualised support and services.

Monique is passionate about mental health reform, and building a service system that is humane, responsive and expedites personal recovery.

BOARD COMMITTEES 2023-24



To support sound governance and lived experience participation and collaboration, WAAMH's Board was supported by the following committees during 2023-2024.

Board Executive Committee

Members: Kerry Hawkins, Shaun Mays, Claire Timmel, Debbie Childs, Pamela Bubrzycki

The Board Executive Committee is made up of the Board Chairperson, Deputy Chairpersons and the Chairs of the Finance Committee and the Governance, Risk, Remuneration and Nomination Committee. The Board Executive Committee supports the Board in fulfilling its strategic direction and Board operations. The Chief Executive Officer attends committee meetings in an ex officio capacity.

Finance Committee

Members: Debbie Childs (chair), Claire Timmel, Nicole Jolly, Pamela Bubrzycki

The Finance Committee provides advice to the WAAMH Board concerning the financial strategy and compliance of the association, including financial controls, accountability, financial reporting and policies. The CEO and Corporate Services Manager attended committee meetings in an ex officio capacity. Rod Lillis attended meetings to provide independent accountancy consultation to the committee. Directors may attend meetings as observers on a regular basis. In 2023-24 Chairperson Kerry Hawkins attended meetings regularly. In 2023-24 the Finance Committee reviewed monthly financial reports, supported the preparation of the annual budget and oversaw further improvements to WAAMH's financial controls and accountability.

Governance, Risk, Renumeration and Nomination (GRRN) Committee

Members: Shaun Mays (Chair), Leanne Strommen, Tanya Steinbeck, Ben Smith

The GRRN Committee supports the Board in fulfilling its statutory, fiduciary and regulatory obligations, assists with Board performance, Board governance, director nominations, succession and development, oversees CEO performance and WAAMH's strategic management. The CEO attends committee meetings in an ex officio capacity. Directors may attend meetings as observers on a regular basis. In 2023-24 Chairperson Kerry Hawkins attended committee meetings as an observer.

Lived Experience Partnership Committee

In 2021-22 the Lived Experience Partnership Committee decided to freeze the meetings as it is considered that at this point, the WAAMH Board has integrated best practice of lived and living experience within the way it works. It remains ready for action should the need arise in the future.



WAAMH 2023-24 Board

Kerry Hawkins - Chairperson (WAAMH), Carer representative

Carli Sheers - Consumer representative (retired at 2023 AGM)

Deborah Childs - CEO HelpingMinds, Chairperson Finance Committee

Lorrae Loud - Carer representative (retired at 2023 AGM)

Shaun Mays - Chairperson (GRRN Committee), Director of Strategy and Growth, Rise

Pamela Bubrzycki - Deputy Chairperson (WAAMH), Chief Services Officer, Hope Community Services

Nicole Jolly - Director of Integrated Support, Neami National

Leanne Strommen - General Manager of Community Services, Centrecare Inc

Tanya Steinbeck - Carer Representative

Claire Timmel - Deputy Chairperson (WAAMH), Consumer Representative

Ben Smith - Executive manager Growth and Innovation, Holyoake - appointed at 2023 AGM

Monique Williamson - CEO Mental Illness Fellowship of WA (MIFWA) - appointed at 2023 AGM

Ruth Charles – appointed to fill casual vacancy in March 2023 and resigned in August 2023

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Directors Board Meeting Attendance 2023-2024

NAME	MEETINGS ATTENDED	MEETINGS POSSIBLE	
Kerry Hawkins	5	6	
Debbie Childs	5	6	
Shaun Mays	5	6	
Tanya Steinbeck	5	6	
Leanne Strommen	4	6	
Pamela Bubrzycki	6	5	
Nicole Jolly	4	6	
Claire Timmel	5	3	
Ben Smith	3	3	
Monique Williamson	3	3	
Carli Sheers	2	3	
Lorrae Loud	0	3	
Ruth Charles	1	1	

WAAMH STAFF

From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

Taryn Harvey

Chief Executive Officer

Cassandra MacDonald

Manager Operations and Business Development

Vanessa Cullen

Training Manager

Lorna Lobo

Training & Corporate Services Officer

Christine Hastie

Finance & Corporate Support Officer

Cindy Cox

IPS Support & Evaluation Officer

Corey Dwyer

IPS Support & Evaluation Officer

Diane Moe

IPS Support & Evaluation Officer

Kenneth Dinsdale

IPS Support & Evaluation Officer

Roshani Shrestha

IPS Project Lead

Colin Penter

Policy and Research Officer

Kathy Greenwood

Lived Experience Engagement Coordinator

Robyn Brendenkamp

Training and Membership Officer

Shendelle Oliver

Marketing and Events Manager

Michele Burnlar

Training Development Officer

DEPARTURES

During 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

Coralie Flatters

Advocacy and Mental Health Promotion Manager

Eimear Boland

CARE Hub Coordinator

Wilma Edwards

CARE Hub Facilitator

Kylie Grove

NDIS Project Officer/IPS Admin Support Officer

Michelle Kelly

Communications Specialist

Rosyln Mather (Bowyer)

Project Lead NDIS QSC Sector Readiness

Project

Nicole Gale

Project Officer NDIS QSC Sector Readiness

Project

Nigel Barrett

Manager Corporate Services







MEMBERSHIP 2023-24



Full Organisational Members

A R C Time to Rise

Albany Halfway House Assn

Alyv

Anglicare WA (Inc)

Centrecare Inc

Collective Hope Community Services Ltd

Collie Family Centre Inc

Facilitatrix

Fusion Australia

Healthy Mindz

HelpingMinds

Holyoake

Homeless Healthcare

Hope Community Services Ltd

Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Services

Kidsafe WA

Lamp Inc

Lifeline WA (Living Stone Foundation Inc)

Mens Talk

Mental Illness Fellowship of WA (MIFWA)

Mercy Community Services Limited

Mind Australia

My Way Disability

Neami National

Pathways SouthWest Inc

Perth Inner City Youth Service (PICYS)

Poad Street Proprietary Limited

Relationships Australia Western Australia

Richmond Wellbeing Inc.

Rise Network

Ruah Community Services

Soldiers and Sirens

South West Autism Network Inc.

Southern Cross Care (WA) Inc.

St Bartholomew's House

St John of God Social Outreach Sevices

St Vincent de Paul Society (WA) Incorporated

Sudbury Community House

Tenacious House

Tender Care

UnitingWA

Warren Blackwood Mental Health Services

Youth Focus

Youth Futures

Associate Organisational Members

Air Force Association (WA Division) Incorporated

Anchor Foods

ATI-Mirage Training & Business Solutions

Blooming Minds

Cancer Council WA

Circle Green Community Legal

City of Stirling

ECA WA

Fresh Start Recovery Programme

GP down south

Healthy Mind Menu Inc

Life Injury Management

Mindful in Nature

One2One Oty Ltd

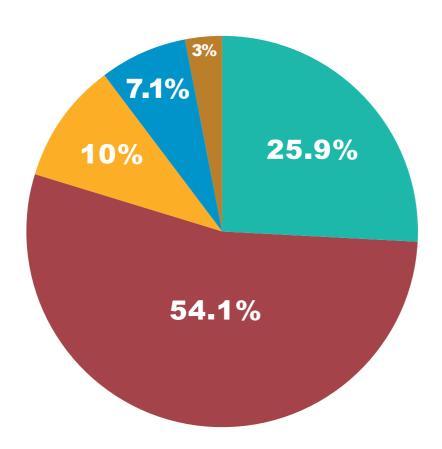
Regional Counselling Services

SMR Learning t/a Train Smart Australia

Youth Affairs Council of WA

2023-24 MEMBERSHIP BY CATEGORY

- Full Organisational
- Full Individual
- Associate Organisational
- Associate Individual
- Honorary



ADVOCACY



Policy & Research

In a policy sense 2023/24 was a challenging and frustrating, but productive period as we work to influence mental health policy and practice nationally and in WA.

We provide a brief snapshot of some of the more important policy work undertaken in 2023-24. At a Federal level WAAMH was active in its efforts to articulate a uniquely WA perspective to influence Federal Government policy through its membership of Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) and Mental Health Australia (MHA); developing submissions and reports on various issues; engaging with the WA Primary Health Alliance and other national stakeholders, including Federal Departments and Parliamentary processes.

Through close working relationships with both national peaks and directly through submissions, presentations and participation in events, WAAMH played a role in attempting to influence Federal Government mental health policy on a wide range of issues. Some national policy related activities were:

- Analysis of the Final Report of the NDIS Review in terms of issues of Psychosocial Disability in the NDIS, and provide input through Mental Health Australia, Community Mental Health Australia and other key stakeholders.
- Provide a submission to the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) review of the Department of Health & Ageing management of the contract with the Primary Health Networks.
- Provide a submission in response to a Discussion paper on the Development of a National Homelessness and Housing Plan.
- Coordinate a response and prepare a submission to Mental Health Australia on its draft paper titled Psychosocial Service principles, psychosocial service models and discreet services.
- Provide input and articulate a WA perspective on psychosocial service needs and psychosocial models
 and service responses to inform national work, including the national study into the Unmet need for
 Psychosocial support services.
- Develop an overview of mental health related Budget items in Federal Government Budgets.
- Provide an overview for national peaks and stakeholders on WA mental health budgets.
- Work with Mental Health Australia and other national and state peaks to develop a Statement of
 priorities for presentation to the National Health Ministers' meetings to discuss the National Health
 Reform Agreement and the National Unmet Needs study.
- Provide submissions and presentations to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Workforce Australia system, with a particular focus on the important linkages between employment and mental health and

the benefit of the Individual Placement and Support Program.

- Provide input to the National Health and Safety Quality Commission on the new National Standards for community managed mental health organizations.
- Provide input to the Federal Department of Social Services on alternative approaches to the commissioning and funding of not-for-profit, non-government organizations.
- Convene monthly meetings of Policy Officers based in other state-based community mental health
 peaks to discuss issues of mutual interest and ways to influence policy and practice at the Federal
 and State level.
- Monitor the roll out of Federal Government policy, programs and initiatives, and Parliamentary reviews and inquiries and Royal Commissions.

At the state level WAAMH works to influence the policy and practice of the WA Government, the WA Mental Health Commission, other State government agencies, WA peak bodies and other stakeholders, and to represent WAAMH member organisations and the sector more broadly, in order to influence policy, processes and funding that support the sector to fulfill its role.

Some of the main activities focused on the following issues:

- Advocacy to the Mental Health Commission on the development of its Draft Mental Health and AOD Strategy 2025-2030, including participation in a Technical Advisory Group and briefings by Commission staff.
- Advocacy to the Mental Health Commission and the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist on the implementation
 of the new National Safety and Quality Standards for Community Managed Organisations, resulting in
 the establishment of a Working Group to advise on implementation.
- Input into and comment to the Department of Finance on the State Commissioning Strategy and Implementation Plan and to the Mental Health Commission on their Agency Commissioning Plan and Commissioning Schedule.
- A submission to the Federal Government on alternative approaches to commissioning and funding of not-for-profit, non-government organisations.
- Contribute to reviews of legislation, including the Statutory Review of the Health and Disability Services
 Complaints Act and the HaDSCO Office; the Review of the Private Hospitals and Services Act 1927 by
 the Licensing and Regulatory Unit; the proposed Review of the Guardianship and Administration Act
 in 2025 and the Review of the School Education Act.
- Participate in quarterly meetings between the Mental Health Commission, Shelter WA, the Homelessness Bureau within the Department of Communities and WAAMH to discuss housing, accommodation and mental health issues and identify opportunities for joined up and collaborative activities.
- Provide input into the Capability Review of the Mental Health Commission undertaken by the Department of Premier & Cabinet.

Wherever possible WAAMH engages in research activities that support and inform our advocacy and to share this research with stakeholders and decision makers. Areas of research that WAAMH lead, contributed to or engaged with in 2023/24 include:

- Release, promote and deliver over a dozen presentations to WA, national and international audiences
 on the findings and implications of research report undertaken by WAAMH titled Going the Distance:
 Making Mental health support work better in regional communities.
- Undertake research on psychosocial service needs and psychosocial models and service responses
 to inform Mental Health Australia Discussion Papers and submissions, and the national study into the
 Unmet need for Psychosocial support services commissioned by the Federal Department of Health
 and Ageing.
- Participate as a co-researcher in an Edith Cowan University study into young people, mental health and climate change.
- Provide advice to academic researchers across Australia planning or undertaking research on the
 community mental health sector and mental health issues, including Notre Dame University WA,
 Centre for Social Impact (University of WA), Enable Institute (Curtin University) School of Population
 Health (University of WA), Edith Cowan University (various Departments and Centres), University of
 Sydney (Centre for Disability Research & Policy, & The Brain & Mind Centre).
- Research, write and publish a policy paper on the Links between Poverty and Mental Health in conjunction with Anglicare WA, released as part of Mental Health Week and Poverty Week in November 2023.
- Review literature and evidence to inform WAAMH's work and input into policy discussions with the Mental Health Commission, national agencies, other relevant stakeholders and consultants and researchers. Issues researched include psychosocial disabilities and psychosocial support needs inside and outside the NDIS; rights-based approaches in mental health; supported residential services (hostels); outcomes measurement in community mental health; innovative commissioning approaches; social determinants and mental health; employment and mental health; gender responsive and transformative approaches to mental health care; family and domestic violence and mental health; youth mental health; mental health and housing and accommodation supports; digital technology and mental health; private rental housing and mental health; secure rehabilitation and recovery services; climate change and mental health; prison rehabilitation services and programs; step-up step-down service models; the role of peak bodies; workforce needs; cost of living pressures and their impact on mental health.



TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT



WAAMH's Training Program continued to make a significant impact across the Western Australian community, fostering a deeper understanding of mental health challenges and enhancing overall wellbeing. The program successfully expanded workforce knowledge and skills, empowering workers to deliver more effective mental health support services. By focusing on contemporary, recovery-oriented practices, the program also contributed to the improved wellbeing of workers, ensuring they are better equipped to navigate the complexities of mental health care.

The most requested courses during this period were *De-escalation Skills, Being Trauma Responsive,* and *Mental Health in the Workplace*. Emerging trends indicated a growing need for additional courses to address the evolving mental health challenges in the WA community. In response, work began on developing a new course titled *Reflective Supervision: A Non-Clinical Approach*, which launched in September 2024.

Demand for online training continued to steadily decrease, with a clear preference for more interactive, face-to-face learning experiences.

A new *Transitional Learning Framework* was introduced and applied to the course content delivered during this period. This shift aims to enhance the learning outcomes for participants. The framework is structured into four key sections throughout each training session:

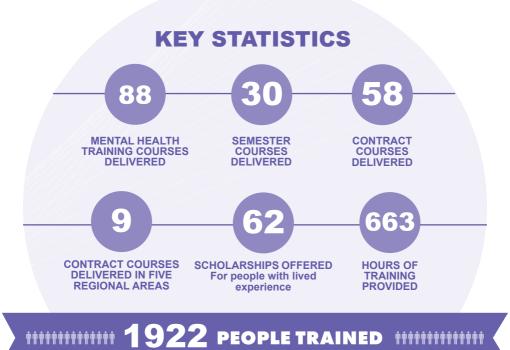
- 1. Why: Establishing the context and purpose of the session.
- 2. What: Introducing key theories, practices, and facts relevant to the topic.
- How: Exploring the intersection between theory and practice, and discussing how the topic applies to real-world situations.
- 4. What If: Expanding on core knowledge by introducing advanced concepts, further studies, and exploring potential future applications

The Scholarship Program continued to play a vital role for carers and consumers who wished to attend WAAMH's training courses but may have faced financial barriers. By providing scholarships and a clear application process, the program continues to ensure equitable access to training opportunities for those who might otherwise be unable to participate.

Over the past year, WAAMH has strengthened its partnerships with a range of key organisations, including the Department of Justice - Courts & Tribunal Services, WA Primary Health Alliance, Carers WA, LAMP, WA Police and Community Youth Centres, Palmerston Albany, Southern Cross Care, Uniting WA, and Parkerville Children and Youth Care. These organisations contracted WAAMH to deliver a series of training courses to their staff across Western Australia, further enhancing collaboration and capacity-building in both the Mental Health sector and wider WA community.

The Wellness Responder Program continues to thrive and has now expanded to support both WAAMH's semester and contract training. With a trained Wellness Responder present in the training room, trainers can maintain their focus on delivering the material, knowing that the participants' wellbeing is being actively supported. Feedback from participants highlighted that the introduction of this role underscores WAAMH's commitment to sector leadership and innovation, reinforcing its dedication to best practices and principles in mental health training and education.

Over this period, WAAMH Training was delivered by our Training Team, 11 Contract Trainers, 2 Wellness Responders and 6 Lived Experience Speakers.



LIVED EXPERIENCE ENGAGEMENT



WAAMH has a long history of partnering with lived experience stakeholders and established a position for a Lived Experience Engagement Coordinator in 2022.

The Lived Experience Engagement Coordinator has been a successful addition to the WAAMH team, with networks and opportunities growing steadily in response to demand from the sector. The role was designed to be a point of contact for people in Western Australia seeking to engage from a lived experience perspective; support capacity building of WAAMH members who are working to utilise lived experience expertise; and ensure WAAMH is connected to National and State Lived Experience Workforce developments, initiatives and learning opportunities.

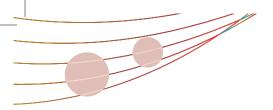
Training

Lived Experience Speaker Training has been popular with individuals who want to share their lived or living experience, either as part of advocacy/peer work or as part of the sense making process for themselves. This workshop in 2023/24 was again full of participants who have provided positive feedback and are now well connected to WAAMH. The next course is scheduled for February 2025. In addition, the Workshop for Lived Experience Speakers was booked by Keipa Boodja Aboriginal Corporation in Bunbury to upskill and support their staff to become engaged in the lived experience workforce.

Throughout 2023/24, new training courses have been co-designed by the Training Team and the Lived Experience Engagement Coordinator. This collaboration has led to positive results, with three popular courses being developed and the ongoing inclusion of customised scenarios that reflect firsthand experiences. The new courses are Being Trauma Responsive, Non-Clinical Reflective Supervision and Understanding Vicarious Trauma.

Lived Experience Speakers

For some time, WAAMH has featured a Lived Experience Presenter in training courses, offering a unique perspective to the course material. This past year has seen many high quality Lived Experience presentations integrated into the WAAMH training courses, with each LE presenter tailoring their story to highlight and amplify the learning outcomes of the course they have chosen as relevant to their topic. This has been an exciting learning process for all involved, as presenters and trainers navigate ways to retain the integrity and authentic voice of the presenter whilst weaving their lived expertise into the



WAAMH course calendar. Speakers are supported by the Lived Experience Engagement Coordinator who works closely with the Training team and the Wellness Responders to ensure quality and safety.

During Mental Health Week, WAAMH held two free workshops to support and guide people from the community who wished to make a short video or post relating to the theme Employment, Empowerment and Expectations.

Relationship Building

The Lived Experience Engagement Coordinator has represented on the WACOSS Lived Experience Steering Committee, is a Collaborator on the Dynamic Catalyst Project for Curtin University and was involved in the MHC Practice Supervision Project. They presented on Reflective Peer Supervision at the WAPSN Conference and have just commenced as an organisational representative for the COMHWA Collaborate to Connect Project. The Lived Experience Engagement Coordinator supports the growth of the Lived Experience Workforce by promoting engagement opportunities, providing introductions and guidance to individuals and organisations upon request, attending functions, events and meetings, and supporting WAAMH activities such as MH Awards and Conference.

Professional Development

This year the Lived Experience Engagement Coordinator participated in a 4 week online national training 'Working with Lived Experience' and also the 'Our Race' in person Seminar. Both workshops focus on ethical storytelling and best practice ways of working with people who identify as having lived experience.

COLLABORATIVE AND RESPONSIVE ENGAGEMENT (CARE) HUB



The CARE Hub serves as a dynamic, practice-focused community space that emphasizes communication, collaboration, and sector development in mental health. Its effectiveness is deeply rooted in the active engagement of its members, who share their experiences, knowledge, and resources through mechanisms like Communities of Practice. By participating, members not only influence perceptions of mental health and recovery but also contribute to expertise, authority, and meaningful dialogue.

Key Focus Areas:

1. Leadership Development:

CARE Hub hosts co-learning sessions emphasizing personal and organizational leadership, exploring various leadership styles, and fostering self-awareness and growth.

2. Training and Spotlight Series:

The Hub delivers specialized training, including topics presented by experts such as Vee Wilson, a Lived Experience Consultant. Their new spotlight series features video interviews to broaden perspectives on mental health topics.

3. Sector Engagement:

The team actively engages with diverse audiences through conferences, sector events, and collaborations with organizations like Neami National. These efforts expand the Hub's reach and build new relationships while raising awareness of emerging community mental health needs.

4. Research and Capacity Building:

Collaboration with UWA students provided insights into how mental health platforms can better engage and build capacity within their communities. This research highlights the value of a collaborative approach in supporting national mental health policies and strengthening local networks, aligning with the CARE Hub's mission.

The CARE Hub Lotterywest funding concluded in December 2023 and WAAMH is now working on incorporating the Hub into ongoing operations.

NDIS QUALITY AND SAFEGUARDING SECTOR READINESS PROJECT (PSYCHOSOCIAL PROVIDERS) PHASE THREE

Funded by the Department of Communities, Phase Three of the project continued to build the capacity of registered NDIS psychosocial providers to operate in compliance with the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Commission requirements, with a focus on the design and delivery of accessible resources.

Funding for the project concluded in December 2023 with the team finalising the project with an NDIS Legacy toolbox for the sector, which can be found on the CARE Hub.

IPS WORKS INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT & SUPPORT



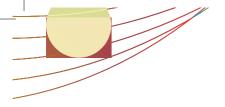
WAAMH's work to strengthen the IPS employment model continues to be an excellent model of sector and workforce support and development of contemporary practice and models of care that deliver tangible recovery outcomes in the community.

The IPS WORKS team continued to support 50 headspace sites across Australia and two Community Adult Head to Health centres, one in Midland WA and one in Darwin, Northern Territory, now known as Medicare Mental Health Centres. The two IPS programs are funded by the Department of Social Services (DSS). The work involved providing ongoing mentoring and support to the headspace sites and conducting fidelity reviews.

IPS WORKS continue to support the IPS pilot within Ruah Community Services and was successful in partnership with Ruah to extend the pilot for an additional 12 months through to June 2025. program with a community managed mental health service provider.

IPS WORKS was also contracted to conduct two fidelity reviews by Community Bridging Services (CBS) in South Australia in April and June of 2024.

WAAMH was represented at the International Learning Community Annual General Meeting held in Dallas USA May 2024. Representatives from England, Iceland, Norway, France, Spain, Holland, and across the USA attended. The meeting provided an opportunity to build relationships with international peers and for WAAMH to co-facilitate with headspace National office about IPS and young people,



headspace sites

O IPS WORKS Locations

- Head to Health sites
- Youth Focus site
- Community Bridging Services
- RUAH

New South Wales	Victoria
Ashfield	Ballarat
Bankstown	Bendigo
Bega	Dandenong
Dubbo	Frankston
Gosford	Geelong
Grafton	Knox
Newcastle	Melton
Nowra	Shepparton
Penrith	Sunshine
Tamworth	Warrnambool
Wagga Wagga	Werribee
Wollongong	

Queensland
Caboolture
Cairns
Hervey Bay
Inala
lpswich
Mackay
Meadowbrook
Mount Isa
Rockhampton
Townsville

Western Australia Albany Broome Bunbury Fremantle Geraldton Joondalup Kalgoorlie Midland

Tasmania

Devonport

Northern Territory Alice Springs Darwin Australian Capital

South Australia

Edinburgh North

Murray Bridge

Onkaparinga

Port Augusta

Port Lincoln

Individual Placement & Support



MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION



Over the last financial year, the Mental Health Promotions team focused on delivering its major annual campaigns, WA Mental Health Week, and the WA Mental Health Awards, as well as other activities including Member events, while playing a supporting role in other campaigns.

Events and campaigns the Mental Health Promotions team supported during 2023-24:

- · WA Mental Health Week Opening and Closing Ceremonies
- September 2023 Member's event with special guest WA Mental Health Commission, Maureen Lewis
 and her team who shared insight into the Independent Governance Review (IGR)
- March 2024 Members Event with presentation from Deputy Mental Health Commissioner, Monica Taylor
- June 2024 Members event where CEO, Taryn Harvey gave and update on WAAMH's strategic
 priorities and a brief about the theme for Mental Health Week 2024. This event was targeted at CEO's,
 Marketing and Communications staff plus lived experience workers.
- · Dowerin Field Day
- Psychosis Australia Conference in Sydney supporting role Sept 23

Dowerin Field Day

Thanks to the support of Lotterywest, WAAMH hosted a trade stand at the Dowerin Field Day (DFD) 30 – 31 August 2023 in All Flags Pavilion.

It is well known the Wheatbelt region and Agriculture sector have many challenges regarding mental health. WAAMH participated in the Dowerin Field Day to promote prevention strategies and offer support and connection to services for this community and sector.

Based on the Needs Assessment of the Wheatbelt conducted the WA Primary Health Alliance for 2022 - 2024, mental health was he second leading cause of disease burden in the region and with a large aging population.

The Wheatbelt also had the second highest rates of self-harm in Country WA and high rates of Emergency Department presentations for mental health issues, particularly impacting men, and young people who we hope to target with prevention information and strategies by participating in this event.

WAAMH event outcomes were:

- Create opportunity for connection within families, workplaces, community groups, schools to start safe conversations about mental health;
- · Promote mental health literacy:
- · Raise awareness of mental health issues and reduce stigma associated with seeking support; and
- Showcase WAAMH's Going the Distance report on community mental health priorities in regional WA
 including the Wheatbelt

WAAMH engaged with a wide range of event visitors and stakeholders including other services providers, WACHS, farmers and other agriculture sector workers, parents, schools and children (through our colouring in giveaway).

WAAMH staff engaged well with event visitors and had 3 visitors disclose suicidal thoughts.

WAAAMH was able to offer support and immediately to walk these at-risk visitors around the Holyoake stand to get clinical support from a local Wheatbelt based clinician.

To collect data and find out the needs of guests in the region that were attending the event, WAAMH hosted a competition asking what local needs and wants are.

120 event visitors participated in the competition and three entries were selected as competition winners.



WA MENTAL HEALTH WEEK



WA Mental Health Week 2023 was held 7-14 October with the theme Mind, Body, Environment, which was chosen to emphasise the interplay between and our mental wellbeing, physical health and the environments in which we live, learn work and play.

Recognising that mental health is not isolated from our physical health or the world around us, this theme encourages a holistic approach to well-being. By acknowledging the synergy, Mental Health Week aimed to empower individuals to take a comprehensive and balanced approach to their mental health.

Mental Health Week also fostered the curation of community events around Western Australia via WAAMH's long-standing Lotterywest Community Grants Program, with 83 grants delivered to organisations to host their own events, purchase equipment, or access a WAAMH education scholarship. There were hundreds of community events held around Western Australia during the Week. WAAMH partnered with Escare and 18 other local community services in Esperance to host a free community event – the WA Mental Health Grand Opening and Annual Pop-up café.

This event has been hosted by Escare for more than 5 years and WAAMH had previously supported the event with a Lotterywest Community Grant. Given the growth over the event over time, it seemed logical to partner with Escare to make this the official Mental Health Week Opening Ceremony event. More than 700 people attended the 4 hour event including local member, Shelley Payne MLC and Dr Sophie Davison from the Mental Health Commission.

WAAMH partnered with long-standing Mental Health Week partner, The Jungle Body to host a fitness class at The Court. This community event had more than 80 people in attendance, working out to music, (in an alcohol free environment) instructed by The Jungle Body team.

Tickets for the event were \$8.00 per person and all funds raised were donated to WAAMH.

For the second year in a row, WAAMH partnered with the University Club of Western Australia to host Breakfast by the Bay.

This function was aimed at corporate and mental health sector event but was open to the public to attend.

The feature of the event was a panel discussion followed by Q&A from the audience.

The panel of speakers were:

- Tyson Cherrie talking about the connection between food and mood
- Lisette Kaleveld sharing insights into the Centre for Social Impact's recent report into regional community mental health titled, 'Going the Distance,'
- Tia Whyman from the Telethon Kids Institute, Aboriginal Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
- · CEO of MIFWA, Monique Williamson and
- David Lawrence who is Professor of Mental Health in the School of Population Health at Curtin University. His research focuses on mental health and wellbeing of children and adolescents, and mental health and wellbeing of first responders.

150 guests attended from various mental health and community service providers, along with corporates, government and general public.

WAAMH concluded the week of activity with a corporate Sundowner and official Mental Health Week Closing Ceremony at Anzac House which overlooks Government House gardens and the Derbal Yerrigan (Swan River).

80 guests attended which included Mental Health Week partners, government officials, WAAMH member organisations and guests of WAAMH.

Lisa O'Malley attended on behalf of the Mental Health Minister and Olenna Connell was the lived experience speaker talking to the campaign theme.























MENTAL HEALTH AWARDS



The WA Mental Health Awards recognise individuals and organisations from a diverse range of sectors and the broader WA community.

The 2023 Western Australian Mental Health Awards celebrate individuals and organisations that made an outstanding contribution to mental health in the calendar year of 2022 (January-December 2022).

These annual Awards recognise and reward the achievements of those who demonstrate excellence, innovation and initiative in supporting consumers of mental health services, their families and carers; and showcase best practice in WA's mental health sector to inspire others.

In 2023, 270 attendees including guests from government, the mental health sector and representatives from organisations and communities who have a passion for mental health joined the celebrations. WAAMH received 144 nominations across ten categories, judged by a panel that included mental health sector employees, mental health lived experience consumers and carers, and MHC representatives.

The number of nominations across the categories outside mainstream or traditional mental health settings signaled the universal message that mental health awareness and supports are important across all areas



2023 FINALISTS AND WINNERS

Minister's Award

WINNER: Prof. Ashleigh Lin

FINALISTS

- Nadia Bamasri
- Louise Ball
- · Louise Howe
- Lorraine Potter

Lifeline WA Prevention and Promotion Award

WINNER: ALIVE & Kicking Goals

FINALISTS

- Holyoake
- Boyup Brook Community Mental Health Action
 Team
- Zero2hero

Mental Health Commission Lived Experience Impact and Inspiration Award

WINNER: Dan Cazangiu

FINALISTS

- Gabriel Osborne
- Ron Deng
- Matt Vapor

Roshana Care Group Diversity Award

WINNER: Our Place

FINALISTS

- Freedom
- · Rohan Collard

Lotterywest Mentally Healthy Employee or Volunteer Excellence Award

WINNER: Leanda Verrier

FINALISTS

- Lvnne Sadler
- Matthew Willson
- · Dr. Andrew Wenzels

Happiness Co and Happiness Foundation Mentally Healthy Workplace Award

WINNER: Mineral Resources

FINALISTS

- Zonta House
- · Melchor Contracting
- Water Corporation

HOPE Community Services Mentally Healthy Education Award

WINNER: Kinross Primary School

FINALISTS:

- Halls Head College Education Support Centre
- Maryteresa Higgins from Westfield Park Primary School

Youth Focus Innovation for Change Award

WINNERS: Together We Ride

FINALISTS:

- CAMHS Aboriginal Cultural Reference Group
- · Wheatbelt & Beyond Youth Mentoring Inc

WAAMH News Media Award

WINNER: Martin Wilson, Nicole Ferraro, Third Storey Pictures & HelpingMinds

FINALIST:

- · Caitlin Paroczai
- Tom Wildie
- Rebecca Trigger

Commissioner for Children and Young People Young Champion Award

Not Awarded

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2023/2024

WAAMH continues to operate within its approved budgets and a tight control on its financial performance. The two Australian Accounting Standards, AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers, and AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities continue to influence WAAMH's financial position. Multiyear projects with funding classified AASB 1058 and already received and receipted in the year received has contributed to the 23/24 deficit. This standard will continue to influence the rolling surplus and deficits across the life of these types of projects.

Revenue

WAAMH's overall revenue reported in 2023/2024 reduced from 2022/2023.

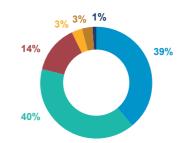
The largest revenue reduction from 22/23 was in Events income. In 22/23 WAAMH held a mental health conference. These are usually held every two years. There was no conference held in 23/24.

WAAMH's core MHC service agreement has been rolled over again, being 13 years under the same agreement. Without a funding review against new service delivery output, and pressure of increased resourcing costs the MHC service agreement is putting pressure on WAAMH's bottom line.

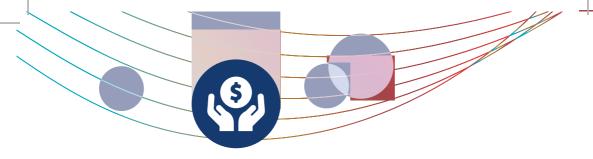
Major events and Sponsorship income contributed on the back of successful events - Mental Health Awards, and sponsorship for Mental Health Week activities.

Revenue 2023-2024

- Service Agreements
- Grants
- Training & Program Fees
- Events & Activities
- Membership Fees
- Other revenue



REVENUE BY ACCOUNT GROUP	2023-2024	2022-2023
Service Agreements	\$876,429	838,608
Grants	\$895,810	1,086,185
Training & Program Fees	\$295,790	304,590
Events & Activities	\$73,614	409,642
Membership Fees	\$64,964	74,830
Other revenue	\$27,358	13,725
Total revenue	\$2,233,965	\$2,727,580



Expenditure

WAAMH's expenditure in 23/24 decreased due to various factors including there being no conference held in that year. Various grant funded projects were completed and as a result staff numbers reduced. These included the CARE Hub project and the NDIS project.

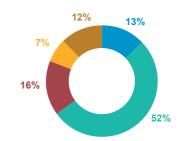
Reduced staff number affected other areas too.

The Mental Health Commission's service agreement expenditure during this time has remained consistent.

WAAMH is focused on minimising administrative expenditure while maintaining efficient operations with robust governance.

Expenditure by Activity 2023-2024

- Systemic Advocacy
- Sector Capacity Building
- Workforce Development & Training
- Mental Health Promotion
- General Operations & Governance



EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITY	2023-2023	2022-2023
Systemic Advocacy	\$387,948	429,114
Sector Capacity Building	\$1,507,939	1,724,531
Workforce Development & Training	\$464,476	535,950
Mental Health Promotion	\$207,419	206,645
General Operations & Governance	\$359,590	421,954
Total expenditure	\$2,297,372	\$3,318,194

Strong and thriving mental health community

At the Western Australian Association for Mental Health (WAAMH) we work to support and enable recovery in people affected by mental health concerns, through the development and representation of community mental health service providers, and by our direct engagement in understanding the experiences of people living with mental health challenges in WA.

We work to influence policy and funding decisions that will help create a strong and sustainable range of community mental health services, to provide contemporary, individualised and responsive support for people across the breadth of our state.









