

MEDIA RELEASE

6 July 2017

Sell-out mental health conference to showcase diversity, best practice in WA

MORE than 1000 people will gather for WA's biggest mental health conference over the next week, which has attracted a sell-out crowd and broad representation from the community, government and business sectors.

The 2017 WA Mental Health Conference and Awards will run from 13-14 July 2017 and starts with a pre-conference Multicultural Mental Health Forum tomorrow (7 July at 9am) at the Bendat Community Centre in Wembley, where Australia's Race Discrimination Commissioner Dr Tim Soutphommasane will talk about racism, resilience and harm, and the effect this has on both victims and observers.

Next week - the main event at Perth Concert Hall - the WA Mental Health Conference and Awards will showcase an impressive line-up of experts and keynote speakers, including US-based Dr Mark Salzer, UK-based Professor Peter Beresford, Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Gallop and National Mental Health Commissioner Jackie Crowe, alongside an equally impressive, action-packed program. Opening the event will be Deputy Premier of WA and Minister for Mental Health The Hon. Roger Cook MLA.

Winners of the WA Mental Health Awards will be announced at the Awards Dinner on 13 July. Finalists were selected across eight categories and reflect the diverse experience, skills and qualities of people and organisations when it comes to recovery-oriented and best practice mental health care and support in WA.

Closing the conference, MC Peter Rowsthorn will be joined by much-loved Australian comedian Mikey Robins, code-switching Nyoongar sensation Ingrid Cumming and Perth's Godfather of comedy Werzel Montague, in a night of live comedy at Frame of Mind, raising funds for mental health awareness and suicide prevention. Tickets are available online at waamh.org.au/frameofmind or at the door.

Western Australian Association for Mental Health (WAAMH) chief executive officer Rod Astbury said WAAMH was proud to host this important conference – which welcomes consumers, carers, clinicians, the media and anyone interested in mental health best practice - in Perth for the second year in a row and pleased registrations had sold out in record time.

“We are particularly pleased the forum has attracted strong consumer, family and regional registrations, and that culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and Aboriginal perspectives are reflected in the program,” Mr Astbury said.

As part of the conference, there will also be poster presentations for delegates to highlight their research, story or perspectives. One of the stand-out posters this year will focus on the call from the peak body WAAMH for the new state government to pledge that funds raised from the proposed sale of Graylands Hospital be reinvested back into the chronically underfunded mental health sector, as indicated in its 10-year mental health plan.

Another exciting aspect is the Embrace Nature Photography Exhibition, which encouraged the public to visually capture the important link between nature, creativity and personal wellbeing. These inspirational photos will be on display during the conference and available for general public viewing between 10-2pm from 18-28 July at Workzone Foyer, 1 Nash St, Perth.

The conference will also feature a Wellbeing Zone, Chill Out Lounge, a Conversation Café, and an Aboriginal Mental Health Yarning Circle hosted Aboriginal Elders.

Event overview: WA Mental Health Conference and Awards 2017

- Hosted by community mental health peak body, the Western Australian Association for Mental Health (WAAMH), with the support of the WA Mental Health Commission, at the Perth Concert Hall on 13-14 July
- Conference overview: waamh.org.au/conference
- Full program: https://waamh.org.au/assets/conference/conference-2017/conference-documents/wa-mental-health-conference-program_2017.pdf
- Multicultural Mental Health pre-conference forum on 7 July: waamh.org.au/MMHF
- WA Mental Health Awards and finalists: <http://waamh.org.au/awards>
- Embrace Nature Photography Exhibition: waamh.org.au/embrace_nature

Media Pass

For a complimentary media pass to the pre-conference forum on 7 July, awards ceremony on 13 July, any aspects of the conference on 13-14 July, or for interviews with speakers contact the WAAMH Public Relations Manager detailed below.

Media Contacts

Rod Astbury
Chief Executive Officer
WA Association for Mental Health
08 6246 3000
RAstbury@waamh.org.au

Amy O'Brien
Public Relations Manager
WA Association for Mental Health
08 6246 3000 or 0422 954 966
AOBrien@waamh.org.au

With thanks to the Gold Sponsors of WA Mental Health Conference 2017



📍 Level 1, 1 Nash Street, Perth WA 6000 📮 PO Box 8482, Perth WA 6849 ☎️ (61) 08 6246 3000

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