



**mental health**  
community coalition ACT Inc.

# **Annual Report** **2020-2021**



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**Mental Health Community Coalition of the ACT Inc**  
**Annual Report**  
**2020-2021**

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# Vision and Mission

**We are the voice for quality, community-managed mental health services in the ACT.**

Our purpose is to foster the capacity of ACT community managed mental health services to support people to live a meaningful and dignified life.

## STRONG SERVICES

To support providers to deliver quality, sustainable, recovery-orientated services, we will:

- Ensure lived experience is at the heart of service development and provision
- Promote evidence-based innovation in service design and delivery
- Foster strong partnerships between services
- Advocate for viable, sustainable funding for community sector organisations



## INFLUENTIAL

To represent our members and provide advice that is valued and respected, we will:

- Proactively participate in agenda setting with evidence-based advocacy
- Represent the views of our members and people with lived experience
- Build and maintain our networks of influence
- Promote the role of community sector providers in health care reform



## VALUED SECTOR

To showcase the role of community managed services in supporting people's recovery, we will:

- Build understanding of the sector's contribution to health and wellbeing
- Strengthen collaboration between clinical and community services
- Promote a whole of person approach
- Encourage initiatives that support recovery in the community



## EFFECTIVE WORKPLACE

To ensure MHCC ACT is well governed, ethical and has good employment practices, we will:

- Support a mentally healthy workplace that honours diversity
- Recognise and develop the roles of staff and board members
- Model transparency and innovation in how we work
- Encourage a culture of collaboration and inclusion





# Board Report



If there was ever a year where MHCC ACT experienced change – this was it! The adaptability and resilience that the organisation, and the sector as a whole, displayed in facing this change was incredible. It served as a great reminder of the strength and value of the community mental health sector.

MHCC ACT has continued to manage the restrictions and uncertainty of a global pandemic safely and clearly, despite significant changes to programs and plans. It was wonderful to see face to face events during 2020 Mental Health Month and the excellent awareness raising media surrounding that.

We also welcomed a new Minister for Mental Health in Emma Davidson, MLA, and look forward to continuing a close and productive relationship with all aspects of government.

MHCC Board has kept busy over the year also. We were very sorry to farewell Angie Ingram as President who guided us through constitutional transformation. We have welcomed the formation of the Lived Experience Committee and the wonderful input they bring to the organisation. The membership survey provided a great basis for the Board's strategic planning which reinforced the values that we hold vital to the role of the MHCC ACT.

We also farewelled Simon Viereck at the end of 2020, having steered MHCC ACT as Executive Officer for a decade. Having played an integral role in local mental health issues, policy guru Leith Felton-Taylor also moved on to another role during the year. Whilst we will always miss past colleagues, it's great to know that their MHCC experience will inform their future roles.

The Board is proud to welcome a new CEO in Bec Cody, who hit the ground absolutely sprinting and has enhanced our advocacy agenda. The scrapping of the NDIS independent assessment proposal is just one area we were able to influence and ensure the needs of those with psychosocial disability were heard. The Board is extremely grateful for all the work of the staff team throughout the year.

In that respect, a special mention is needed for the team of the highly successful Recovery College trial which finished this year. Rapidly adapting to online learning was not anticipated when the trial began, but independent evaluations and stakeholder feedback all strongly commend the success of the Recovery College. We look forward to seeing the learnings from the trial inform a permanent ACT Recovery College in the near future.

The Board has recognised the difficulties that many of our members have faced over this year with demand spiking as our local population managed the impact of bushfires, toxic smoke and a global pandemic on its mental health. It has been inspiring to see the innovation that has emerged, and new opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing. I am proud that MHCC ACT has contributed to this process through workshops and leadership meetings.

Thank you to all of our members, staff and Board members across this challenging year. We have definitely emerged with new skills, and a deeper understanding of the value of supporting one another with kindness through times of change.

Dr Yvonne Luxford  
President, MHCC ACT



# MHCC ACT Board Membership

## **President**

Yvonne Luxford (from November 2020)  
Perinatal Wellbeing Centre

Angie Ingram (until November 2020)  
Mental Health Foundation ACT

## **Vice President**

Rob Antich (from November 2020)  
Board-appointed Director

Heidi Prowse (until November 2020)  
Mental Illness Education ACT

## **Treasurer**

David Turvey  
Board-appointed Director

## **Secretary**

Angie Ingram (from November 2020)  
Mental Health Foundation ACT

Yvonne Luxford (until November 2020)  
Perinatal Wellbeing Centre

## **Ordinary Members**

Matilda Emberson  
Lived Experience Director

Lauren O'Brien  
ACT Disability, Aged and Carer Advocacy Service

Bianca Rosetti  
Lived Experience Director

Paul Russell  
Woden Community Service

# MHCC ACT Members 2020-2021

Access Lifecare  
ACT Shelter  
ADACAS  
Advocacy for Inclusion  
Anglicare  
ATODA  
Avenue Counselling  
Barnardos  
BPD Awareness ACT  
Capital Health Network  
Capital Region Community Services Ltd  
Carers ACT  
CatholicCare  
Connections Case Management  
EveryMan Australia  
Greenleaf Care Plus  
headspace Tuggeranong  
Koomarri  
Livability Australia

Making Connections Together  
Marathon Health  
Marymead  
ACT Mental Health Consumer Network  
Mental Health Foundation ACT  
Meridian ACT  
MIEACT  
Nexus Human Services  
People with disability (PWD)  
Perinatal Wellness Centre  
Richmond Fellowship ACT  
Rubies Nursing Care  
Stride (previously Aftercare)  
The Quest Group  
Tuggeranong Community Arts Association  
(Messengers Program)  
Wellcare  
Wellways  
Woden Community Service  
Youth Coalition ACT

# CEO's Report



Well what a year it has been. This is the first year I have been with MHCC ACT, and it has certainly been a year that none of us will forget... From the day I started in March this year, it has been a wonderful experience. Working so closely with all our members to ensure community mental health providers are supported to deliver the best care possible to the community has been inspiring.

I can't go much further in my report without mentioning one of the biggest challenges faced by the community here in the ACT, as well as communities across the world. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have been a challenge for all of us, but particularly those with lived experience. From the national lockdown in early 2020, border closures across Australia and the world, inability to see family, ongoing uncertainty and fear for the future, changes in the way we have been used to living our lives and the many members of our community affected by the pandemic. MHCC ACT has spent a lot of this year working through the impacts of COVID-19 on our members and the community, as well as attending to business as usual.

I'd like to mention some of the important advocacy that MHCC ACT has engaged in this year. I am sure to forget many of the things the team has worked on, but further details about this work can be found in the Policy section of this report. We have worked together with members and sector partners to ensure that changes to the NDIS which would have had a negative impact on participants and providers didn't see the light of day. I appeared before my first ever federal parliamentary committee, the Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS, along with some of our partners. We have also been working to ensure ACT Government commissioning meets the sector's expectations. We have been involved in ensuring the community mental health sector is not forgotten when it comes to national strategies and standards, such as the National Safety and Quality Mental Health Standards for Community Managed Organisations, the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy, the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Strategy, and of course the NDIS.

So much to say in such a short time, so to finish off I'd like to thank the Board for all their hard work and trust in bringing me on to lead MHCC ACT into the next chapter; the team, both past and present, for their loyalty drive and ongoing commitment to the community mental health sector; and, finally, to all our members who believe in us being a voice to better support them to deliver fantastic care to the Canberra community.

*Bec Cody*  
*MHCC ACT Chief Executive Officer*



# MHCC ACT Staff List

## **Bec Cody**

Chief Executive Officer (from March 2021)

## **Simon Viereck**

Executive Officer (until November 2020)

## **Leith Felton-Taylor**

Policy and Sector Development Manager  
(until September 2021)

## **Kathy Ehmman**

HR and Finance Manager

## **Inge Saris**

Policy and Advocacy Officer (until October 2021)

## **Ben Matthews**

Sector Development Officer

## **Alison Hall**

Communications and Events Officer

## **Recovery College staff**

### **Dianna Smith**

Manager

### **Kym' Twisty' Schmid**

Education Coordinator

### **Kylie Brewer**

Administration and Student Support Officer  
(until April 2021)

### **Luke Amor**

Assistant Administration Officer (until September 2020)

### **John Neasey**

Assistant Student Support Officer



# Treasurer's Report

MHCC ACT achieved an overall operating surplus for the 2020-2021 year of \$79,597 (2019-2020: \$128,940). Total income for the year of \$1,315,980 represented a 10.3% increase compared to 2019-2020 (\$1,193,235). Total expenditure for the year of \$1,236,383 represented a 16.2% increase compared to 2019-2020 (\$1,064,295).

Increased income resulted from an increase in membership receipts and COVID Cashflow Boost, which continued until October 2021.

There was a reduction in workshop registration from 2019-2020, largely due to ongoing uncertainty around COVID restrictions.

Staff worked from home for most of the year, so some overheads were reduced. There were some significant staffing changes, which resulted in a 34% decrease in leave provisions. Staffing costs, as usual, was the most significant expense.

The ACT Recovery College trial concluded in June, with a deficit of \$65,122, which was met using MHCC ACT's retained earnings. Also funded was a governance review, stakeholder survey and a contribution to Australian National University's Sector Trends project. The other planned project around mental health pathways has not commenced.

Total assets of \$909,194 (2019-2020: \$1,095,801), and net assets of \$643,731 (2019-2020: \$564,134) provide the organisation with good contingency. MHCC ACT is solvent and able to pay its debts.

I would like to thank the finance sub-committee for their support and HR and Finance Manager, Kathy Ehmann, for another year of excellent bookkeeping and payroll services. Also thanks to Vincents Audit for providing audit services to MHCC ACT.

*David Turvey*  
*MHCC ACT Board Treasurer*

# Policy & Sector Development Report

## **NDIA**

This year has been a busy year for MHCC ACT, responding to various government inquiries resulting in multiple submissions. A large amount of our advocacy time was spent responding to the NDIA.

MHCC ACT was a highly active advocate against the Independent Assessment and joined with many others in the disability community sector, participants, and carers to voice our concerns. We wrote submissions, attended community forums, and spoke at a public hearing of the NDIS Joint Standing Committee in defence of the introduction of Independent Assessments.

MHCC ACT is proud that we all came together as one voice in opposing this unjust and ill-informed initiative that would negatively impact participants and carers, as well as service providers. As a result, the NDIA decided against introducing the Independent Assessments, given the unanimous opposition from all stakeholders. It shows that advocacy works when we all collaborate and form a unified front.

MHCC ACT also submitted feedback to the proposed changes to the NDIS Act and Rules, highlighting the ambiguity of the terminology used. However, we do welcome the changes from psychiatric condition to psychosocial disability and the acceptance of the episodic nature of mental illness. This is another result of years of advocacy from the sector which MHCC ACT is proud to be part of.

MHCC ACT wants to thank its members for their input over the years on this issue. Even though we had a few wins this year with the NDIA, there is still a long way to go. The price guide needs to be adjusted to reflect the true cost of service delivery, for example as well as ensuring any changes outlined for the NDIS will not negatively impact participants, carers and service providers. MHCC ACT will continue to advocate for better conditions for service providers.



## **Mental Health Workforce**

Another focus of our advocacy work has been around the mental health workforce. MHCC ACT has been listening to the sector around the struggles to attract and retain a strong community mental health sector workforce. In its ACT Budget submission, MHCC ACT called for the development of an ACT mental health workforce strategy to assist in ensuring the sector has tools to attract and retain a workforce to the community mental health sector. In response to the work MHCC ACT has been undertaking, a motion was passed in the ACT Legislative Assembly committing to the development of an ACT Mental Health Workforce Strategy within the next six months, focusing on the community mental health sector. Although the federal government has published a draft mental health workforce strategy, the community mental health workforce was overlooked. MHCC ACT made a submission outlining our concerns and advocating for a greater focus on the development of a skilled community mental health workforce at a national level. Even though we will have an ACT specific Mental Health Workforce Strategy we will continue to do advocate for a community sector focus for a federal one.

## **Submissions & Projects**

Some of our submissions were:

- The position paper on the National Disability Strategy (October 2020)
- Response to the Senate inquiry around the Job Seeker Scheme
- Inquiry on Mental Health and Suicide prevention

MHCC ACT has been working closely with other community organisations and government to improve mental health service delivery in the ACT. This has included advocating for our members during the most recent COVID-19 lockdown which lasted for around nine weeks. The community mental health sector, already under pressure to support people with lived experience in our community, were under even more pressure during the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic and ACT lockdown. During the lockdown MHCC ACT liaised closely with many members of the ACT Legislative Assembly including the Chief Minister and Treasurer, Minister for Health and also Minister for Mental Health which ensured community mental health became a focus of government support.

This year CMHA started a peak body policy group, allowing an interstate collaboration on mental health policy for service providers. It has been a fruitful endeavour enabling us to share our different experiences and speak with one voice regarding relevant national mental health issues. One of the projects we worked on was the first consultation round for the National Safety and Quality Mental Health Standards for Community Managed Organisations. MHCC ACT continues its work with the policy group to ensure the ACT is well represented.

MHCC ACT commissioned two projects this year. One was our stakeholder survey conducted by Alison Barclay, the other the Pathways Project conducted by the Centre for Mental Health Research, Australian National University. The Stakeholder survey showed that our work is valued but that we need to ramp up some of our advocacy work. With the arrival of our new CEO Bec Cody, we have been able to start changing tactics and develop more strategic relationships. There has been more direct contact with policymakers to make sure our members are included in decision making.

Our pathways project looked at how well our service providers are connected and can refer their clients to the service/s they need. The research found there are serious gaps in referral pathways mainly due to underfunding of the community mental health service sector. There also seems to be a lack of knowledge in public health services on what community services are available. MHCC ACT will take these results and work with government and the community sector to improve referral pathways for people with lived experience and their carers. The report will be available in the new year.

### **ACT Recovery College**

The two-year recovery pilot project concluded at the end of June. MHCC ACT is proud to have been involved in the 18-month trial and is excited by outcomes achieved by the ACT Recovery College's hardworking and passionate staff. The feedback from the community and participants in the college's programs has been overwhelmingly positive, with many other states wanting to learn more about the ACT trial. Since the trial has come to an end, MHCC ACT will lobby the ACT government to establish a permanent recovery college to support the community on their recovery journey.



*“The College was so incredibly crucial to my recovery journey. The sense of belonging I felt by attending was what drew me to the College, then COVID hit, and it felt like our world was falling apart. Having those Social calls on Zoom was like a breath of fresh air to reconnect with those who understood my day-to-day levels of anxiety before the pandemic. The staff at the College are all so wonderfully supportive and encouraging, it's a real credit to the whole team and project” End of year survey 2020*

## Sector Development

### Training

Online training continued to be the primary delivery mode across 2020-21, with a few in person training sessions delivered to lower than expected numbers. MHCC ACT will be looking at sustaining online training delivery as we continue to work more in this hybrid work setting, allowing the convenience and cost reductions to further support the development of the community mental health sector.

Date	Training Course	Delivery Mode	Attendance
17 March	Understanding and Responding to Trauma	In Person	14
12 August	Understanding Sex & Gender Diversity	Online	13
21 September	Introduction to Motivational Interviewing	Online	20
29 September	DoNoHarm Training	Online	21
4 November	Co-Design with Leanne Craze	Online	19
11 November	Advanced Motivational Interviewing	Online	11

### NDIS Support Coordination Community of Practice

The NDIS Support Coordination Community of Practice (SC CoP) meet every second month and is coordinated by the Office for Disability and MHCC ACT. These meetings are run online or in person when and where appropriate. They provide a chance to support coordinators to come together and share information and discuss matters that concern them. There is also an NDIS CoP Facebook Group for further collaboration, consisting of 35 active members.

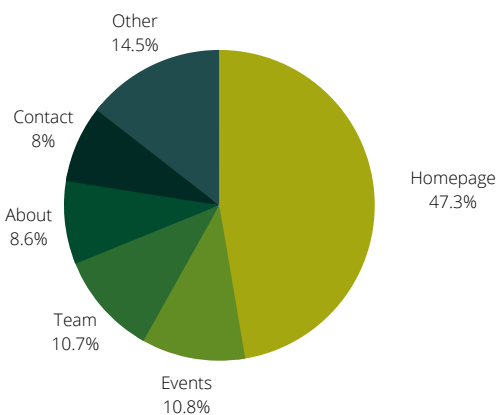
# Communications Report

## Website

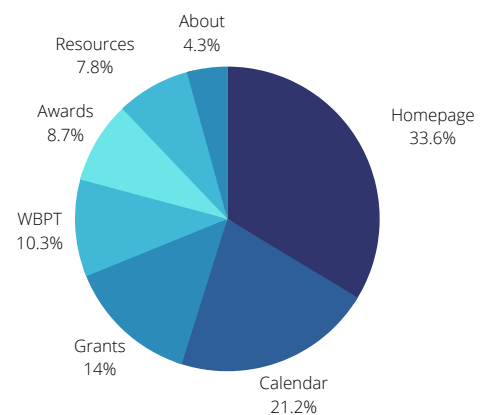
Both the MHCC ACT and Mental Health Month websites continue to see positive engagement. The MHCC ACT site sees in excess of 500 visitors per month, with visitors to the events, training, team, about and contact pages increased by over 200 visits each this year.

The MHM website fluctuates throughout the year with its peak period of September and October seeing over 1100 and 2200 visitors respectively in 2021. The Homepage, events calendar, expo and grants pages are the most visited, with the Trail page a new, popular addition this year also.

### MHCC ACT Website page visits 20-21



### MHM Website page visits 20-21



## Social Media

MHCC ACT manages 4 social media accounts:

- @MHCCACT Facebook and Twitter
- @MentalHealthMonthACT Facebook and Instagram

We continue to see good growth on all of these channels in followers, reach and engagement. The MHCC ACT Facebook page has seen a growth rate of 76% bringing followers to 291, with Twitter followers increasing at a slower rate, reaching 768 by June 2021.

Mental Health Month social platforms fluctuate annually, and across September/October see reach of up to 10,000 on Facebook and over 6000 on Instagram, which has doubled from 2020 figures. Facebook followers remain at a steady incline, with Instagram followers at a higher increase rate with over 200 new followers in 2021.



## Email Marketing

MHCC ACT continue to make use of mail chimp for email marketing, for the regular newsletters, updates, training and event notifications.

Open rates are sitting at around 24% in April 2021 across various campaigns, and click rates were averaging 4.8% at this peak also.

Among our regular email marketing communications are the Sector Update newsletter, MHM campaigns, Leadership Group updates and meeting details, MHCC ACT training notifications alongside irregular updates for the sector on a needs basis.

## Media

In 2020-21 MHCC ACT has placed more emphasis on media engagement, releasing 14 media releases from January to June 2021. From these we have seen a significant increase in MHCC ACT media stories and mentions with 13 across this 6-month period. These have included, but are not limited to:

- ABC radio interview, Drive Program with Georgia Stines, 28 January
- 6 Canberra weekly articles across 3 February, 22 April, 28 May and 23 June.
- Canberra Times, 12 March, Former Labor backbencher lands new job after election loss
- 7 News Online, 12 May 2021, Community groups decry 'shameful' budget



# Mental Health Month Report

## Introduction

Each year 1 in 5 Australians experience a mental health issue and approximately half of all individuals will experience issues with mental health in their lifetime. MHCC ACT plans Mental Health Month each year in the ACT with three main objectives in mind:

- To raise community awareness and understanding of mental illness
- To reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness
- To promote positive mental health and wellbeing

In 2021 plans for more in person events were pivoted to online and community driven campaigns that engaged and supported the mental health sector, and the wider public in the ACT due to lockdowns and COVID restrictions that came into place in August 2021. We also enhanced our social and media campaigns through the stories and support of people with lived experience as Community Ambassadors, or public personas with a voice as MHM Supporters in 2021.



## Theme

The 2021 theme 'Navigate your mental health' is about how we can guide our journey using tools and resources such as self-care for wellbeing, communication about support needs and connection to support persons and service providers.

In 2020 it became apparent from consumer and public feedback that people had challenges in knowing how to seek help for themselves, or to support people in their lives who were having mental health issues.



## Reimbursement Grants Program

The reimbursements grant program continued in 2021, with 35 applications for events, and 28 granted funding this year to a total of \$23,400.

Due to the impacts and limitations that the COVID restrictions we extended the time frame for delivery of these events through November and December 2021. Over half of the events were delivered in October, with the remainder still to be held for 2021.

## Wellbeing Priori-Tea

The Wellbeing Priori-Tea aims to bring people together to have a chat over a cuppa during Mental Health Month in October.

Lockdowns, remote working and less promotional focus on this event reduced its capacity this year, with just 18 events registered for 2021.



## Launch Event

This year Mental Health Month was launched through a live stream opening ceremony that included a Smoking Ceremony from Ngunnawal elder Rich Allen, was officiated by Minister Davidson with Dr Elizabeth Moore and Bec Cody also speaking at the launch event.



## Mental Health & Wellbeing Online Expo

Whilst we were sad to not see our planning for the community expo events come to fruition, we were able to bring many of the stall holders to the community through our online expo. Using Zoom and live streaming to the MHM Facebook page, the online expo was a series of daily talks, presentations and workshops on mental health and wellbeing. Streamed at 10am most weekdays we saw talks on mindfulness, BPD awareness and resilience as well as having art and dance workshops – and even a basketball skills workshop!





## The Trail

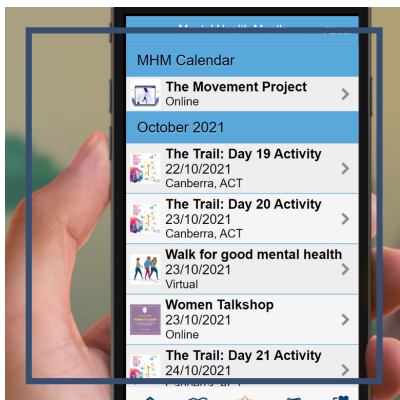
The Navigate Your Mental Health Trail was a checklist of daily activities that spanned 28 days across October and was delivered to the public via The Trail Guide zine (booklet), the MHM App, online resources and downloads and the MHM social media channels. Each week was themed (nature, creativity, active, connect) and each daily activity tied into that theme and gave specific activities for people to complete that support positive mental health and wellbeing.



## Marketing

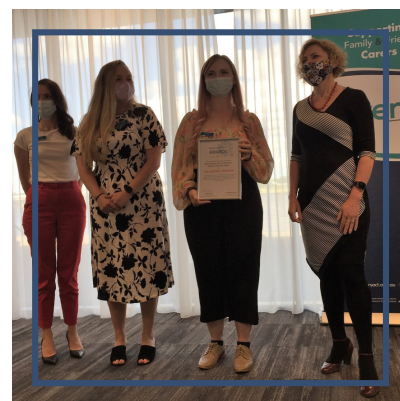
Promotion of the MHM campaign and events was delivered through:

- Sponsored Win television commercial
- 3 Win Canberra news reports
- 10 news stories in print
- One local publication front cover
- 2 TCCS Sponsored bus back advertisements
- Lighting for a cause - National Carillion, Telstra Tower & Canberra Centre
- 4 advertisements in local publications
- 5000 Trail Guide zines distributed across ACT
- 200 posters distributed across ACT
- 200 postcards distributed across ACT
- 3300 website visits across September/October 2021
- Social media posts and videos with a reach of over 16,000 across September/October 2021



## ACT Mental Health Month Awards

As restrictions across the ACT eased over October, we found we were able to have an in-person event for The Awards, held at the Peninsula Room at the National Museum of Australia on Friday 29 October at 3pm. The ACT Mental Health Month Awards recognised the achievements of individuals, groups, organisations, businesses and initiatives in the area of Mental Health in the ACT. This year we awarded 8 awards and 2 scholarships to 3 organisations and 7 individuals, 4 of which are mental health consumers.



## ACT Mental Health Month Awards 2021 - Winners

### **Mentally Healthy Community Award**

Organisation: ANU Thrive

Individual: Dr. Shamaruh Mirza, Sitara's Story

Highly Commended: Frank Arsego, OzHelp

### **Enhancing the lives of individuals, families and carers Award**

New Horizons, Marymead

### **Innovated person-centred valued supports Award**

Organisation: Mental Health Foundation (ACT) and ACT Health

Individual: Nicole Heinzmann, Woden Community Services

### **Leadership through Lived Experience Award**

Consumer - Jennifer Nixon

### **David Perrin Award\***

November Marmion

### **Michael Firestone Memorial Scholarship\***

Steven Effield

### **Rufus Scholarship\***

Dominique Mandziy

\*These Awards and Scholarships are provided by the ACT Mental Health Consumer Network

5 November 2021

The President/Chairperson  
Mental Health Community Coalition ACT  
Room 106 Level 1 Griffin Centre  
20 Genge Street  
Canberra City ACT 2601

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Mental Health Community Coalition ACT**

We have completed our audit for the above in respect of the year ended 30 June 2021 and enclose the following:

- Management letter with our detailed findings for the year under review
- Independence letter outlining to the governing body that we have been independent of the entity
- 2021 Financial Report
- Re-appointment letter
- Invoice for services rendered

Please arrange for the directors to sign the representation letter and financial report where marked and return a copy to us for signature by the auditor. We will then return a fully signed copy of the financial report for your records.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the assistance offered to us during the course of our audit. Should you require any further information on the above matters please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Yours sincerely  
**Phillip Miller**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip Miller".

**Director**  
**Vincents Assurance and Risk Advisory**

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5 November 2021

The Chairperson  
Mental Health Community Coalition ACT  
Room 106, Level 1 Griffin Centre  
20 Genge Street  
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Re: 2021 Audit Management Letter**

We have completed the audit of Mental Health Community Coalition ACT for the year ended 30 June 2021. During the course of our audit work, the following matter came to our attention upon which we would like to comment:

**1) Operating result for the year**

The association achieved an overall operating surplus for the year totalling \$79,597 as compared to a total operating surplus for the 2020 year of \$128,940. The current year result represents an overall result decrease of \$49,343.

Total income for the year of \$1,315,980 represented a 10.3% increase as compared to the 2020 year of \$1,193,235.

Total expenditure for the year of \$1,236,383 represented a 16.2% increase as compared to the 2020 year total of \$1,064,295.

The overall 2021 surplus illustrates decrease as compared to the 2020 year.

It should be appreciated that our audit procedures are designed primarily to enable us to form an opinion on the financial statements of the association, and may therefore not bring to light all the errors or weaknesses that may exist in terms of internal controls, procedures and systems. It is the board's responsibility to maintain an adequate system of internal control as the principle safeguard against irregularities which an audit examination may not disclose.

We would like to thank you and your staff for your assistance and co-operation while conducting our work.

Should you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Yours faithfully,

**Vincent's**



**Phillip Miller CA**  
**Director**

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GPO Box 680, Canberra ACT 2601 w www.vincent's.com.au



5 November 2021

The President/Chairperson  
Mental Health Community Coalition ACT  
Room 106 Level 1 Griffin Centre  
20 Genge Street  
Canberra City ACT 2601

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Independence Discussions**

We confirm that during the audit of the financial report of Mental Health Community Coalition ACT for the year ended 30 June 2021, we have maintained our independence in accordance with the requirements of Professional Statement APES 110.

In the spirit of this confirmation, we have prepared the following comments to facilitate discussion and enable you to have a clear understanding of the issue.

### **Other Services**

We have not carried out any other engagements for Mental Health Community Coalition ACT that would impair our firm's professional independence as auditor.

Any services provided are subject to our own and the profession's strict rules and policies regarding auditor independence. We enforce these rules and policies in order to maintain objectivity and to be free of interest when discharging our professional responsibilities.

Our appointment as service provider for these engagements has been subject to Mental Health Community Coalition ACT's corporate governance procedures encompassing the selection of service providers and the setting of their remuneration.

Some of the safeguards we follow with regard to auditor independence in relation to the provision of these services include ensuring:

- The services have not involved partners or staff acting in a managerial or decision-making capacity, or being involved in the processing or originating of transactions;
- The services have only been provided where we are satisfied that the related function or process will not have a material bearing on our planned audit procedures and would not involve us auditing our own work;
- The partners and staff involved in the provision of non-auditing services have not participated in Mental Health Community Coalition ACT's associated or authorisation processes.

Based on the above safeguards, we are satisfied that the provision of other services has not in any way compromised our independence as external auditor of Mental Health Community Coalition ACT.

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### **Financial Interests**

As your auditor, direct and material indirect investments in any shares of Mental Health Community Coalition ACT are prohibited to us. In summary this prohibition extends to:

- All partners and professional staff; and
- The families of these partners and professional staff; and
- The firm's partner and staff superannuation funds.

We seek annual confirmation from partners and staff that they have complied with this requirement. Based on the results of this process, we are not aware of any instances where partners or staff are not in compliance with this requirement in relation to this engagement.

### **Other Relationships**

We are not aware of any situations where a spouse or close relative of a partner or staff members involved in the audit occupies a position as a director or executive at Mental Health Community Coalition ACT that is significant to the audit.

We are not aware of any situations where a partner or staff member has accepted a position of employment with Mental Health Community Coalition ACT in a senior executive or managerial capacity during or since the end of the financial year.

This report is intended solely for Mental Health Community Coalition ACT and should not be used for any other purpose.

Should you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Yours sincerely  
**Phillip Miller**

**Director**  
**Vincent's Assurance and Risk Advisory**

# Financial Statements

**Mental Health Community Coalition of the ACT**  
**ABN: 22 510 998 138**

## **Financial Statements**

**For the Year Ended 30 June 2021**



# Mental Health Community Coalition of the ACT

ABN: 22 510 998 138

## Board's Report

30 June 2021

### General information

Your board members submit the financial report of the Mental Health Community Coalition of the ACT for the financial year ended 30 June 2021

### Directors

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

<b>Names</b>	<b>Position</b>	
Yvonne Luxford	President	Secretary until Nov 2020
Rob Antich	Vice President	
Heidi Prowse	Vice President	Resigned Nov 2020
David Turvey	Treasurer	
Angie Ingram	Secretary	President until Nov 2020
Lauren O'Brien	Board Member	
Bianca Rossetti	Board Member	
Paul Russell	Board Member	
Matilda Emberson	Board Member	

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

### Principal activities

The principal activity of the Association is provision of co-ordination, systemic representation and community/sector development service for mental health consumers, carers and community mental health service providers in the ACT.

### Significant changes

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

### Operating result

The surplus for the financial year after providing for income tax amounted to \$79,597 (2020: \$128,940).

**Mental Health Community Coalition of the ACT**

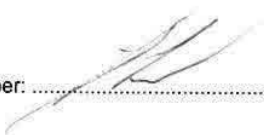
**ABN: 22 510 998 138**

**Board's Report**

**30 June 2021**

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

Board member: *DTurvey* .....

Board member:  .....

Dated this 18th ..... day of November.. 2021

**Auditors Independence Declaration under Section 60-40 of the  
*Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*  
to the Responsible *Persons of Mental Health Community*  
*Coalition of the ACT***

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the 12 months ended 30 June 2021 there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

**Vincent's Assurance & Risk Advisory**



**Phillip Miller**

**Director**

**Canberra, 18 November 2021**

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## Mental Health Community Coalition of the ACT

ABN: 22 510 998 138

### Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

		2021	2020
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue	4	1,274,629	1,048,222
Other Income	4	41,351	145,013
Employee Benefits Expenses		(883,882)	(730,073)
Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses		(69,112)	(66,817)
Project Expenses		(66,965)	(79,551)
Staff & Board Amenities		(5,357)	(5,377)
Website Redevelopment		(378)	(1,429)
Staff expenses		(23,272)	(41,400)
Other Expenses	5	(180,832)	(129,845)
Lease finance costs		(6,585)	(9,803)
<b>Surplus before income tax</b>		<b>79,597</b>	<b>128,940</b>
Income Tax Expense		-	-
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		<b>79,597</b>	<b>128,940</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

# Mental Health Community Coalition of the ACT

ABN: 22 510 998 138

## Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	7	757,613	881,637
Trade and Other Receivables	8	16,854	-
Other Assets	9	7,943	26,917
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>782,410</u>	<u>908,554</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment	10	14,517	12,379
Right of Use Asset	14	112,267	174,868
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>126,784</u>	<u>187,247</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>909,194</u>	<u>1,095,801</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and Other Payables	11	79,651	97,199
Provisions	12	21,031	61,063
Other Liabilities	13	34,700	189,912
Lease liability	14	69,711	53,410
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>205,093</u>	<u>401,584</u>
Lease liability	14	60,370	130,083
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>60,370</u>	<u>130,083</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>265,463</u>	<u>531,667</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>643,731</u>	<u>564,134</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained Earnings		<u>643,731</u>	<u>564,134</u>
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>643,731</u>	<u>564,134</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$	\$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2020</b>	<b>564,134</b>	<b>564,134</b>
Profit for the year	79,597	79,597
<b>Balance at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>643,731</b>	<b>643,731</b>

	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$	\$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2019</b>	435,194	435,194
Profit for the year	128,940	128,940
<b>Balance at 30 June 2020</b>	<b>564,134</b>	<b>564,134</b>

**Mental Health Community Coalition of the ACT**

**ABN: 22 510 998 138**

**Statement of Cash Flows**

**For the Year Ended 30 June 2021**

	2021	2020
Note	\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Receipts from customers	1,282,083	1,377,401
Payments to suppliers and employees	(1,269,481)	(1,181,782)
Interest received	1,730	3,482
Lease finance cost	(6,585)	(9,803)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>7,747</u>	<u>189,298</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	<u>(8,651)</u>	<u>(6,055)</u>
Net cash (used by) investing activities	<u>(8,651)</u>	<u>(6,055)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Lease liabilities - principal repayments	<u>(123,120)</u>	<u>(53,980)</u>
Net cash (used by) financing activities	<u>(123,120)</u>	<u>(53,980)</u>
Net (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	(124,024)	129,263
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>881,637</u>	<u>752,374</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	<u>757,613</u>	<u>881,637</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



**Mental Health Community Coalition of the ACT**

**ABN: 22 510 998 138**

**Responsible Persons' Declaration**

The responsible persons declare that in the responsible persons' opinion:

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013*.

Board Member .....  .....

Board Member .....  .....

Dated this 18th day of November 2021



Mental Health Community Coalition ACT - Annual Report

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Mental Health Community Coalition of the ACT

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