



MIND MEDICINE
A U S T R A L I A

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World Famous Author & Physician Dr Gabor Mate Joins More Than 55 Global and Australian Leaders on Mind Medicine Australia's Advisory Board

Dr Gabor Mate joins a diverse group of global and Australian leaders including Anthropologist Dr Wade Davis CM (Canada), Islamic Scholar and Imam Mohammad Tawhidi, Founder and Director of the Beckley institute Amanda Feilding (UK), Psychedelics researcher Dr Robin Carhart-Harris (UK), Psychiatrist Tanveer Ahmed, Human Rights Lawyer Scott Leckie and many others.

Gabor Maté (Canada) is a retired physician who, after 20 years of family practice and palliative care experience, worked for over a decade in Vancouver's Downtown East Side with patients challenged by drug addiction and mental illness. The bestselling author of four books, published in twenty-five languages, Gabor is an internationally renowned speaker and highly sought after for his expertise on addiction, trauma, childhood development, and the relationship of stress and illness. His book on addiction received the Hubert Evans Prize for literary non-fiction. For his ground-breaking medical work and writing he has been awarded the Order of Canada, his country's highest civilian distinction, and the Civic Merit Award from his hometown, Vancouver. His books include *In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters With Addiction* and *When the Body Says No: The Cost of Hidden Stress*.

[Mind Medicine Australia](#) (MMA) is a DGR-1 registered charity that helps to alleviate the suffering caused by mental illness in Australia through expanding the treatment options available to medical practitioners and their patients. MMA is establishing safe and effective psychedelic-assisted treatments to cure a range of mental illnesses. MMA is particularly focused on the clinical application of medicinal psilocybin and medicinal MDMA as part of therapy for key mental illnesses such as Depression, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Substance Abuse.

Tania de Jong AM, Executive Director, says, "We are delighted to have such a diverse group of global and Australian leaders supporting our important mission. We urgently need to expand the treatment options for mental illness. Unlike conventional treatments, which often require patients to endure years of daily medications and weekly support from a mental health professional, medicine-assisted psychotherapy using these medicines can be effective after just two to three clinically supervised sessions. The medicines are safe and non-addictive when administered within a medically-controlled environment. They have the potential to heal the suffering of millions of people."

Mind Medicine Australia has recently submitted Australia's first applications to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to reschedule Psilocybin and MDMA so that they can be more easily used as part of clinical therapies for the treatment of major classes of mental illness. The rescheduling would move these medicines from Schedule 9 of the



Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons (which deals with Prohibited Substances) to Schedule 8 (which deals with **Controlled Medicines**). **If successful, Australia will become the first country in the world to reschedule these substances for their therapeutic potential.**

Mind Medicine Australia has also recently launched the Southern Hemisphere's first [Certificate in Psychedelic-Assisted Therapies](#) to train psychiatrists, GPs, physicians, psychologists, psychotherapists, mental health nurses and drug and addiction specialists to use these therapies.

According to Mind Medicine Australia's Chairman, Peter Hunt AM, "A proactive approach to broadening the treatment options available for people who have a mental illness is desperately needed. The rescheduling of Psilocybin and MDMA will represent a giant-leap for innovation in mental healthcare, not only in Australia, but globally."

Board member and Executive Director of the Ethics Centre, Dr Simon Longstaff AO says, "We should not allow the prejudices of the past to deny relief in the present. If these medicines are safe and effective when applied in a clinical environment, as current research suggests, then Australian governments have an obligation to make them available."

Please note the following are available for interview:

- The Hon. Andrew Robb AO
- Peter Hunt AM
- Tania de Jong AM
- Dr Simon Longstaff AO

For further information, or to arrange an interview, please contact Ilan Hayman ilan@mindmedicineaustralia.org or Tania de Jong tania@mindmedicineaustralia.org or 0411 459 999.