



MIND MEDICINE TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Media Alert: 12 October 2021 - Launching a Dedicated Training, Education and Clinical Services Organisation Focusing on Psychedelic-Assisted Therapies for Mental Illness and the Developing Understanding of the Mind, Cognition and Human Consciousness

Mind Medicine Australia (MMA) and **Integrated Psychology and Medicine (IPM)** are delighted to announce the establishment of a new training, education and clinical services organisation called **Mind Medicine Training and Education (MMTE)**. The organisation will be jointly owned by MMA and IPM and will focus on training clinicians and educating the broader public on the application of psychedelic-assisted therapies for the treatment of key classes of mental illness and on the developing understanding of the mind, consciousness, and cognition.

MMTE will acquire and continue to build MMA's highly successful training and educational courses, namely its [Certificate Course in Psychedelic- Assisted Therapies](#) for mental health practitioners and its [Fundamentals of Psychedelic-Assisted Therapies](#) which is aimed at a broader audience. MMTE will also acquire [Mind Medicine Australia's Psychological Support Services](#) which provides clinical support, advice and supervision for graduates of our training courses and clinical support for clinicians and the broader public so that they can make safe and informed decisions about mental health and psychedelics and plant medicines more generally.

The Joint Managing Directors of MMTE are **Mr Nigel Denning** and **Dr Tra-ill Dowie**. Mr Denning is a leading Counselling Psychologist, board approved supervisor and educator with particular experience in the areas of complex trauma, family violence, institutional and cult abuse, relationships, meditation, Holotropic Breathwork and medicine work. Dr Tra-ill Dowie is a psychotherapist and educator who established Ikon Institute and has particular experience in the areas of trauma, high performance sports, shamanism and medicine work.

Nigel Denning and Tra-ill Dowie have been the Course Directors of MMA's [Certificate in Psychedelic-Assisted Therapies](#) and [Fundamentals of Psychedelic-Assisted Therapies](#) professional development programs and jointly own IPM.

According to the Chair of Mind Medicine Australia, **Mr Peter Hunt AM**:

"We are delighted to be working with Nigel and Tra-ill to develop Australia's leading clinical training and educational organisation covering psychedelic-assisted therapies and, more broadly, the developing understanding of the mind, cognition and human consciousness. As a charitable organisation, Mind Medicine Australia's core interest is to support clinicians with World's best practice clinical training to support the legal use of these new treatments so that we can dramatically improve remission rates for people suffering from key classes of mental illness. This also involves educating the broader public about the paradigm shifting nature of these developments and the current legal barriers to their use."



MIND MEDICINE TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Mr. Nigel Denning commented that: *“We are excited about the opportunity to partner with Mind Medicine Australia and to take up from the great work already done in putting the potential for working with psychedelic medicine on the map in Australia. Tra-ill and I are committed to developing the educational and clinical application of this work to the highest ethical standards. We are also committed to the development of a world class understanding of the huge potential that psychedelic medicines offer as part of psychotherapy in helping end the psychological suffering of people who have not responded to more traditional approaches. Working with medicinal psychedelics in controlled environment opens up a new paradigm in psychological treatment and we are committed to ensuring that this is done with the utmost of clinical integrity.”*

Dr Tra-ill Dowie added that: *“I have spent my entire life working in the field of psychotherapeutic training and clinical delivery and I am extremely excited about working with Mind Medicine Australia to bring my skills and knowledge into the emerging paradigm where the use of psychedelic assisted therapy becomes an accepted part of our mental health system. I am particularly interested in the therapeutic structure of working with non-ordinary states and ways to manage this ethically, scientifically and efficaciously for the many patients that we are confident will benefit from the sensible addition of this newly emerging approach. As a philosopher I am also involved in the theoretical implications of working in non-ordinary states following and expanding on the work of William James and those who followed him.”*

The [Certificate in Psychedelic-Assisted Therapies Course](#) has a World leading faculty with student participants drawn from the cross-sector disciplines of psychiatry, psychology, psychotherapy, general practice, addiction, emergency medicine, palliative care, counselling nursing, social work, occupational and other therapies. The 4-month part-time course is designed to train health sector participants in the application of psychedelic assisted therapy for use in trial work and under Australia’s Compassionate Access Scheme (called the Special Access Scheme). We believe that this will lead in time to these therapies being registered on the Australian Therapeutic Goods Register.

MMTE is committed to preparing clinicians for the likelihood that these treatments will be available in the near future in a legally approved manner to help people for whom other treatments have not been effective. [Feedback](#) from course participants has been very positive.

The shorter [4-week Fundamentals in Psychedelic-Assisted Therapies course](#) is aimed at a broader audience and covers a general and interdisciplinary overview and understanding of these therapies as well as their current and potential applications, legal framework and the history. [Feedback](#) from the inaugural course has also been very positive.

Further courses will shortly be introduced covering Holotropic Breathwork, Trauma Therapy, Metacognition and Mentalisation, Case Formulation, Therapeutic Skills for the medical and allied health workers and Attachment Repair.



**MIND MEDICINE
TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

The Executive Director of MMA, **Tania de Jong AM**, concluded by saying that:

“This is a very exciting development in this rapidly emerging field. We are delighted to be building this organisation with Nigel and Tra-ill. These professional development courses and other workshops and courses are integral to ensuring more treatment options are available to practitioners and their patients to manage our increasingly dire mental health emergency. We need a sense of urgency from all the stakeholders because too many people are suffering unnecessarily.”

For Further Information please contact:

Peter Hunt AM, Chair, Mind Medicine Australia – 0419 271 483

Tania de Jong AM, Executive Director, Mind Medicine Australia – 0411 459 999

Mr Nigel Denning, Managing Director, Mind Medicine Training and Education – 0407 097 722

Dr Tra-ill Dowie, Managing Director, Mind Medicine Training and Education – 0439 494 633

12th October 2021