



MIND MEDICINE
A U S T R A L I A

ITPRI International
Therapeutic
Psilocybin
Rescheduling
Initiative

Media Alert: 13th January 2021 – for immediate release

Mind Medicine Australia joins global coalition launched to secure a rescheduling of psilocybin under the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

Today Mind Medicine Australia joins in the launch of the **International Therapeutic Psilocybin Rescheduling Initiative (ITPRI)**, a global coalition working to promote and secure a rescheduling of psilocybin under the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Psilocybin is the active ingredient in what are commonly known as 'magic mushrooms', a naturally occurring chemical compound that is increasingly seen as highly safe and effective in treating many forms of mental illness and addiction.

“As a dedicated partner, Mind Medicine Australia is proud to support this important initiative alongside MAPS, Beckley Foundation, Drug Science UK, Open Foundation, Osmond Foundation and Nierika A.C. Achieving a rescheduling of psilocybin will help advance the critical work we are doing to ensure the availability of psychedelic-assisted therapies for those suffering from mental illness and addiction in our rapidly accelerating mental health crisis”, says MMA Chair Peter Hunt AM.

“These very safe, effective and ancient medicines were politicized and stigmatized over 50 years ago by President Nixon halting most of the clinical use globally and drying up funding for research. In that period loneliness, social isolation, depression, addiction and other mental illnesses have spiked. At last, we can all focus on the science and data to give those who are suffering treatments that can truly get them well”, says MMA Executive Director Tania de Jong AM

In most countries, legal control of psilocybin results from its Schedule I status under the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Meant for dangerous drugs which create an especially serious risk to public health and whose therapeutic value is of little to none, Schedule I drugs are subject to strict limits on their scientific and medical use. Schedule I licensing, safe-custody, security, manufacturing, quantity, and import/export restrictions result in a level of regulatory control and oversight that is drastically more onerous than for the Convention's other three schedules. As a result, researchers wishing to study psilocybin face numerous regulatory hurdles which add significantly to the cost, complexity, and duration of research and can negatively impact ethical approvals, funding and collaboration.

According to **Professor David Nutt, head of Imperial College London's Centre for Psychedelic Research and Founder of ITPRI partner Drug Science**, *“psilocybin's Schedule I status has severely limited – and continues to limit - neuroscience research and the development of treatments for patients.”*

Psilocybin is one of several psychedelic compounds that have shown remarkable promise for the treatment of a range of mental health conditions, including treatment resistant depression, major



MIND MEDICINE
A U S T R A L I A

ITPRI International
Therapeutic
Psilocybin
Rescheduling
Initiative

depressive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, end-life-psychological distress, eating disorders and substance use disorder.

The evidentiary basis for including psilocybin in Schedule I remains unclear but appears to have been based largely on political considerations and a mistaken presumption that these drugs offered no medical benefit and posed a high risk of abuse and dependence.

Basing its objectives on research from a number of leading universities and institutes, and with the ultimate goal of accelerating research and fostering the availability of psilocybin-assisted therapies for those suffering from mental illness and addiction, ITRPI will pursue a change to psilocybin's current Schedule I status.

Christopher Koddermann, ITRPI Co-founder and Chair of the Board of Directors, says *"Given today's scientific understanding of psilocybin's high potential therapeutic value and low risk of abuse, a change of its status as a Schedule I drug is long overdue."*

"Rescheduling procedures under the 1971 Convention offer a potentially game-changing opportunity to advance further research and accelerate the approval of treatments for patients", says **Willem Scholten, ITRPI Advisory Board member and former Secretary to the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence**, the body responsible for international drug control scheduling recommendations.

For further information please contact:

- **Peter Hunt AM**, Chair, Mind Medicine Australia - 0419 271 483 and peter@mindmedicineaustralia.org
- **Tania de Jong AM**, Executive Director, Mind Medicine Australia - 0411 459 999 and tania@mindmedicineaustralia.org

About Us: www.mindmedicineaustralia.org

Mind Medicine Australia is an Australian registered charity (with DGR 1 status) seeking to develop the ecosystem in Australia through our medical system for the use of regulatory approved psychedelic assisted psychotherapy as treatment options available to our medical practitioners and their patients for key classes of mental illnesses such as depression and PTSD. MMA's focus is wholly clinical.

Links:

- **Mind Medicine Australia Educational Video:** <https://mindmedicineaustralia.org/#MMAVideo>
- **Mind Medicine Australia 2 page fact sheet with key facts and figures about the state of mental health in Australia and Mind Medicine Australia:** <https://mindmedicineaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Mind-Medicine-Australia-Fact-Sheet-22-February-2021.pdf>



MIND MEDICINE
A U S T R A L I A

ITPRI International
Therapeutic
Psilocybin
Rescheduling
Initiative

About the International Therapeutic Psilocybin Rescheduling Initiative:

Founded in 2021 as a civil society, not-for-profit association under Articles 60 *et seq.* of the Swiss Civil Code, the International Therapeutic Psilocybin Rescheduling Initiative brings together an international coalition of leading psychedelic therapy advocacy and research organizations to promote and secure a rescheduling of psilocybin under the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Partner organizations in this effort are the [Beckley Foundation](#), [Drug Science](#), the [Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies \(MAPS\)](#), [Mind Medicine Australia](#), [Nierika AC](#), the [Open Foundation](#) and the [Osmond Foundation](#). Utilizing rescheduling procedures available under the 1971 Convention, ITPRI will engage signatory governments to the treaty, the WHO and other international institutions to secure a review of and change to psilocybin's Schedule I status.

For more information, please visit www.reschedulepsilocybin.org

Contact:

- **Christopher Koddermann**, ITPRI Co-founder and Chair of the Board of Directors – +41 (79) 434 25 78 and chris@reschedulepsilocybin.org