



Media Alert: 26 July 2022 - For immediate release
Charity Mind Medicine Australia Totally Rejects Assertions made by
ABC's Four Corners program

Imagine a world where you or a member of your family is suffering with severe depression or PTSD and, in consultation with your medical practitioner, you can legally access safe, effective and affordable psychedelic-assisted therapy treatment in Australia. That is the mission of our charity, Mind Medicine Australia.

It is very sad that Four Corners has made a number of unsubstantiated, misleading and disingenuous claims against the credibility, approach and reform agenda of charity Mind Medicine Australia (MMA) in its program on 25 July 2022 and an article on the ABC's website.

MMA totally rejects the claims made by Four Corners in relation to MMA's world-leading therapists' training course, the vetting of therapists and any association with underground therapists and workplace culture. The organisation is not highly litigious but has every right to defend itself against social media attacks and trolling.

It is curious that Four Corners has also shut down the option for the Australian public to comment on any social media platform or YouTube, thus silencing open and transparent debate about the program and its content.

What is MMA Arguing For

MMA has made a submission to the TGA requesting that psychedelic medicines be rescheduled from Schedule 9 to Schedule 8 of the Poisons Standard, on a highly restrictive basis. Under this approach, three psychiatrists will have to confirm the patient's diagnosis and the appropriateness of the treatment, the patient will have to be treatment resistant and will have to give fully informed consent and the treatment will only occur in a medically controlled environment.

According to MMA's Chairman, Mr Peter Hunt: *"This is an incredibly conservative approach. When we first submitted a rescheduling application in 2020 it was supported by 96% of people and organisations making submissions. Over half of those were psychiatrists, psychologists and other medical and health professionals. This time around our application is even more restrictive."*

Tania de Jong commented: *"Given our terrible mental illness epidemic, we need to give people hope that the mental health system in Australia can be reformed and that there will be new therapies available in this country that have been shown to be safe to use and highly effective in medically controlled environments, without people either having to break the law or go overseas for treatment to countries where these treatments are legally available."*



MIND MEDICINE A U S T R A L I A

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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.

It is estimated that only about one third of depression sufferers and less than 10% of sufferers with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) get well with current treatments. Even worse the psychiatric medicines used can often have nasty side effects and relapse rates can be high when treatments stop. Therapy can last for years and often for decades. There is a desperate need for treatment innovation in a sector which has seen very little treatment innovation for over 50 years.

Even before the Covid pandemic, Australia was experiencing a mental health epidemic where 1 in 5 Australians were experiencing mental illness and 1 in 8 Australians were on anti-depressants. Rates of mental illness and suicide have been significantly exacerbated by the pandemic.

Psychedelic-assisted therapies have been shown to be safe and lead to high remission rate in overseas trials after just a few medicinal treatments with a short course of psychotherapy.