



**MIND MEDICINE**  
A U S T R A L I A

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## **Mind Medicine Australia to host Australia's Inaugural International Summit on Psychedelic Therapies for Mental Illness online in November 2021**

Mental health charity Mind Medicine Australia (MMA) is delighted to announce the inaugural **International Summit on Psychedelic Therapies for Mental Illness** and **2-day Introductory Workshop** will take place between **17–20 November 2021 online**.

**As the saying goes, 'The show must go on'!** MMA will **democratise** and **decentralise** access to **world-class education** through transcending the limitations of geography and border restrictions, and use cutting-edge technologies to increase access around the world to this ground-breaking ONLINE Summit.

**This global event is a key milestone in progressing access to these highly safe and effective medical treatments in Australia and the surrounding Asia-Pacific region. This is particularly important given our increasing mental health emergency in Australia, following prolonged lockdowns and the significant trauma imposed upon the community by the pandemic.**

The two-day Summit will bring together clinicians, scientists, academics, mental and public health professionals, philanthropists, Government, law and policy leaders, business, industry, insurers, consumers and other interested stakeholders. to learn about the progress globally and ethical, legal, and practical frameworks surrounding their possible implementation in Australia. The program features a world class line-up of talks, workshops, hot spots, panel conversations and creative moments.

Leading international speakers confirmed for the 2-day summit and Mind Medicine Australia Ambassadors include: **Professor David Nutt (UK)** Head of Neuropsychopharmacology at Imperial College London and lead advisor on psilocybin assisted therapy for treatment-resistant depression, **Dr Gabor Maté (Canada)** renowned trauma and addiction physician, **Johann Hari (UK)** journalist and bestselling author, **Dr Bill Richards (USA)** world-leading therapist trainer and psychologist at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, **Dr Ben Sessa (UK)** psychiatrist, researcher and writer and currently leading the Imperial College trials on using MDMA therapy for alcohol dependence, **Dr Robin Carhart-Harris (UK)** Head of the Centre for Psychedelic Research at Imperial College London, **Francoise Bourzat (USA)** Counsellor and Author, **Wade Davis (Canada)** anthropologist, ethnobotanist and Explorer in Residence at the National Geographic Society, **Dr Alberto Villoldo (USA)** medical anthropologist and author, **Dr Lynn Marie Morski (USA)** President of the Psychedelic Medicine Association, **Matthew Johnson**



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**(USA)** Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine with a focus on psychedelic research for the treatment of mental illness, **Dr Adele Lafrance (USA/Canada)** Clinical Psychologist and Research Scientist, **Patrycja Slawuta (USA)** Researcher & Psychologist, **Dr Gabby Agin-Liebes (USA)** Psilocybin researcher and Weill Institute for Neuroscience, **Admiral Chris Barrie AC (AUS)** former Head of the Australian Defence Force and Strategic Leadership Consultant, **Dr Kate Pate (USA)** Neurophysiologist and writer, **Arthur Christopoulos (AUS)** Professor of Analytical Pharmacology and Molecular Neuropsychopharmacologist at Monash University, **Dr Reid Robinson (USA)** psychedelic psychiatrist and writer, **Dr Adam Gazzaley (USA)** Founder & Executive Director of Neuroscape, **Shlomi Raz (USA)** Chairman and CEO of Eleusis, **Kelsey Ramsden (Canada)** Co-Founder, CEO & President of Mindcure, **John Skerritt (AUS)** Deputy Secretary, Health Products Regulation Group - TGA, **Dr Simon Longstaff (AUS)** Executive Director of The Ethics Centre, **Dr Eli Kotler (AUS)** Psychiatrist and Director of Medicine at Malvern Private Hospital... and more to be announced.

The event will also feature a two-day pre-Summit **Introductory Workshop Program (17-18 November)** led by **Nigel Denning, Dr Tra-ill Dowie with world-leading therapist trainer Dr Bill Richards (USA) from Johns Hopkins University**. It is for anyone with an interest in the topic and who is considering further development of their current therapeutic skills or who are eager to gain a detailed understanding of **psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy for the treatment of mental illness**.

Peter Hunt AM, Chair of MMA, says, “Health experts are suggesting that one in three Australians currently have a chronic mental illness as a result of the pandemic. Yet the standard treatment of ongoing psychotherapy combined with taking pharmaceutical medicines only adequately helps 35% of patients suffering with depression and only 5% of those suffering with post-traumatic stress disorder. Over 160 studies show that psychedelic-assisted psychotherapies are highly effective for 60-80% of patients after only two or three medicated sessions combined with a short course of psychotherapy, when conducted in a clinically-controlled environment. The medicines involved are proven to be safe and non-addictive. I believe that the impact of the information that’s shared about these treatments at the International Summit on Psychedelic Therapies for Mental Illness will spark a much-needed paradigm shift in the approach to mental health solutions in Australia.”

Executive Director of MMA Tania de Jong AM says, “There is a massive renaissance of interest in these medicines, especially now. When we started MMA there was just one commercial start-up globally; now there are new companies launching nearly weekly. With accelerating mental illness across the community due to the Covid-19 crisis we simply do not have the tools to heal the millions who are suffering. These medicines provide potential for healing for those who have tried multiple different treatments, often over decades, without success. We are very excited to hear from the world class leaders who have confirmed their participation. They will share valuable insights, data and science, and educate practitioners, consumers, insurers, investors,



*business, industry, government, academics and the broader community about this rapidly emerging field.”*

The International Summit on Psychedelic Therapies for Mental Illness is an excellent educational opportunity to gain an in-depth understanding of this long-overdue innovation in mental health care. Both MDMA and psilocybin assisted therapies have been shown to be successful in treating depression, social anxiety in autistic adults, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), end-of-life stress and anxiety and addiction. They are now being trialled for anorexia, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), and dementia, among many other conditions.

The TGA has recently announced an [Independent Review](#) of MMA’s submissions for the rescheduling of psilocybin and MDMA, and the Australian Government is investing \$15 million into further research and development in this field.

For information and to register for the International Summit on Psychedelic Therapies for Mental Illness and the Psychedelic Therapist Introductory Workshop, please visit: <https://summit.mindmedicineaustralia.org/>

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**About Us: [www.mindmedicineaustralia.org](http://www.mindmedicineaustralia.org)**

Mind Medicine Australia was founded by social entrepreneurs Peter Hunt AM and Tania de Jong AM following their successful experience setting up other charities and working with people diagnosed with a mental illness. It is an Australian registered charity (with DGR 1 status) seeking to broaden the treatment paradigm available to medical practitioners and their patients and improve treatment effectiveness by establishing, safe, accessible and effective Psychedelic-Assisted Psychotherapy in Australia to help prevent further suffering and suicides caused by mental illness. MMA’s focus is wholly clinical.