



Israeli doco *Trip of Compassion* to premiere in Byron Bay

Almost one in two Australians will be affected by mental illness in their lifetime. Psychedelic Medicines Could Provide an Effective and Ground-Breaking Treatment, says Mind Medicine Australia.

Mind Medicine Australia is thrilled to announce the premiere Byron Bay screening of *Trip of Compassion* at 8pm on Saturday March 7th at Byron Theatre followed by a Q & A Panel and conversation. *Trip of Compassion* is an acclaimed Israeli documentary on MDMA-assisted psychotherapy for the treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). *Trip of Compassion* follows a number of patients participating in clinical trials in Israel, and is the **first feature documentary** to show footage from within psychedelic-assisted therapy sessions. Tim Ferris, acclaimed author and podcaster said: "*Trip of Compassion* is the most compelling movie I've seen in the last year!"

Mind Medicine Australia (MMA) has been established as a new not-for-profit organisation to promote the development of research-backed and regulatory-approved psychedelic medicines in Australia. Psychedelic medicines, properly used, may be able to broaden the capacity of the medical sector to provide effective and long-lasting solutions for millions of people suffering from mental illness.

An estimated 45% of Australians will experience a serious mental health illness in their lifetime. Psychedelic medicines such as MDMA, LSD and psilocybin (found in certain mushroom species) continue to demonstrate ground-breaking results in the treatment of mental illness in clinical trials globally. Australia is now commencing its first clinical research trial in the field part-funded by Mind Medicine Australia.

Research has shown that psychedelic therapy can provide people with remission from depression, addiction and trauma and ease end-of-life anxiety for people with terminal illnesses with just one to three doses. Psychedelic therapy trials have also shown a correlation with reduced suicidality and an increased openness to therapeutic solutions.

In the United States, trials of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy have been shown to relieve post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), with a 76% success rate. Pioneered by the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS), this research has been so successful that the American Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted MDMA breakthrough therapy status and MAPS is hopeful that MDMA will be approved as a prescription medicine in the US by 2022. In comparison, traditional antidepressants, such as Zoloft and Paxil, show a mere 20% success rate in treating patients with PTSD.

According to Peter Hunt AM, Chair of MMA: "*Mental illness is the global epidemic of our time. An estimated 200 Australians attempt to take their lives every day, with mood disorders including depression and anxiety being the leading causes of suicide. At any time it's estimated that more than 1 in 5 Australians are suffering from mental illness - that*



means almost everyone in this country is affected by this epidemic, either directly or because of the suffering of loved ones.”

Tania de Jong AM, Executive Director of MMA, explains: *“The rate of suicide has been steadily increasing in Australia over the past decade and these sobering statistics call for awareness, education and better therapeutic solutions to alleviate the suffering of individuals and the burden of mental health disease on society. We urgently need a massive paradigm shift in the treatment of mental illness.”*

Professor David Nutt from Imperial College London, who is an Ambassador of MMA, claims that current trial results signal a paradigm shift in how mental illnesses are treated: *“This is potentially a revolution in the treatment of depression and could arguably be the greatest contribution to health since the vaccine.”*

For tickets to the Byron screening of Trip of Compassion on Saturday March 7th please visit: www.byroncentre.com.au

The phone number is: 02 6685 6807

For more information please visit: www.mindmedicineaustralia.org

MMA was founded by award-winning social entrepreneurs Peter Hunt AM and Tania de Jong AM following their experience setting up other charities and working with people suffering from mental illness.

For further information, a full list of speakers, bios, interviews or event enquires please contact: Tania de Jong or Ilan Hayman E: tania@mindmedicineaustralia.org M: 0411 45 9999

About Mind Medicine Australia

Mind Medicine Australia (MMA) is working towards a world free of mental illness and addiction. MMA supports innovation in the treatment of mental health and wellbeing by acting as a central nexus between academia, government, technology, philanthropy and culture. With an active focus on the potential of psychedelic medicines and supporting technologies, MMA creates educational content, promotes policy development, cultivates professional partnerships and encourages and supports appropriate research into the science, benefits, and the risks of psychedelic medicines. MMA will also oversee the establishment of an accredited psychedelic-assisted therapy training programme for healthcare professionals, to the extent permitted by the regulatory environment.

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