



Media Alert: 19th of February 2021

Mind Medicine Australia Announces First Ever Event in Canberra – Screening of the World Acclaimed Film *Trip of Compassion*

Mind Medicine Australia is thrilled to announce our first ever screening of ***Trip of Compassion*** at 6:30pm on Wednesday March 3rd at Palace Electric Cinema in Canberra followed by a Q&A Panel and discussion.

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. One of the patients said: "I felt like I went through 15 years of psychological therapy in one night."

"*Trip of Compassion* is the most compelling movie I've seen in the last year"
says Tim Ferris, acclaimed author and podcaster.

[Please click here to watch the Trip of Compassion trailer](#)

[Mind Medicine Australia](#) is Australia's leading not-for-profit organisation working towards the use of medicinal psilocybin and MDMA-assisted therapies to treat a range of mental illnesses. Mind Medicine Australia exists to help alleviate the suffering caused by our accelerating mental illness epidemic, through expanding the treatment options available to medical practitioners and their patients.

Psychedelic-assisted therapies offer enormous potential in providing a meaningful alternative to current treatments for mental illness. PTSD is a debilitating condition that affects tens of millions of people worldwide, with many more trauma victims diagnosed with comorbid conditions such as depression, anxiety and eating disorders. In recent clinical trials, MDMA has been shown to produce outstanding remission rates, restoring patient safety and self-agency even for individuals who have suffered with PTSD for many years, and for whom many treatments have failed.

Results from Phase 2 clinical trials over the past decade have been so compelling that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the United States recently designated MDMA-assisted psychotherapy as a 'Breakthrough Therapy'. This designation highlights the FDA's anticipation that these therapies may offer substantial advantage over current treatments. If forthcoming Phase 3 results confirm these treatments are effective, MDMA-assisted treatment of PTSD may become a prescription medicine as early as 2022 in some jurisdictions.

The wave of clinical psychedelic research and regulatory support is rapidly building, with psychedelic-assisted treatments also becoming available through Special Access Schemes around the world.



Following the screening, there will be a Q & A panel with **Tania de Jong AM**, Founder and Executive Director at Mind Medicine Australia, **Peter Hunt AM**, Founder and Board Chair at Mind Medicine Australia, **Admiral Chris Barrie AC**, Mind Medicine Australia Director and Airforce veteran **Michael Raymond**. This will be an opportunity to engage in a discussion about psychedelic-assisted psychotherapies for mental illness broadly, and what Mind Medicine Australia and other local organisations are doing here in Australia.

Former Defence Force chief and Mind Medicine Australia Director, **Chris Barrie**, says that psychedelics offer the "*only possibility of a cure for post-traumatic stress disorder*".

Tania de Jong AM, Mind Medicine Australia's Executive Director, says, "*Unlike conventional treatments, which often require patients to endure years of daily medications and weekly support from a mental health professional, medicine-assisted psychotherapy can be effective after just two to three clinically supervised sessions with these medicines. All the research indicates that the medicines are safe and non-addictive when administered within a medically-controlled environment. There have been no adverse events in over 150 trials globally.*"

Board member and Executive Director of the Ethics Centre, **Dr Simon Longstaff AO** says, "*We should not allow the prejudices of the past to deny relief in the present. If these medicines are safe and effective when applied in a clinical environment, as current research suggests, then Australian governments have an obligation to make them available.*"

For tickets to the Canberra screening of Trip of Compassion please visit:

<https://events.humanitix.com/trip-of-compassion-a-window-into-psychedelic-assisted-therapies-canberra>

Enquiries: (03) 8679 6015

For more information please visit: www.mindmedicineaustralia.org

Please note the following are available for interview:

- Peter Hunt AM (MMA Chair)
- Tania de Jong AM (MMA Executive Director)
- Chris Barrie AC - Board Director of MMA and former Head of the Armed Forces who says these treatments are the only hope for Veterans suffering with PTSD
- Michael Raymond - Veteran in Canberra who has healed through these treatments

For further information, or to arrange an interview, please contact Ilan Hayman ilan@mindmedicineaustralia.org or Tania de Jong tania@mindmedicineaustralia.org

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