



MIND MEDICINE
A U S T R A L I A

Media Alert: 10th May 2021

Emyria and Mind Medicine Australia to launch Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy Program (EMDMA-001) for PTSD

On Wednesday 5 May, [Emyria \(ASX:EMD\)](#) and [Mind Medicine Australia](#) announced their **first psychedelic-assisted therapy care program (EMDMA-001)** for sufferers of treatment resistant **post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)**.

This represents a significant step forward in addressing the mental health crisis in Australia and is consistent with international developments in this field. The program has been modelled on a major Phase III clinical trial developed by the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS) in the US and (pending a successful ethics review), EMDMA-001 will commence with a Phase II, open-label clinical trial of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy at Emyria's **fit for purpose clinic in Melbourne** before expanding to other sites

EMDMA-001 will utilise specially-trained therapists who are graduating from Mind Medicine Australia's first [Certificate in Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy \(CPAT\)](#) training program at the end of this month. It is expected that this pilot program will be an important first step towards delivering safe, accredited, cost-effective, scalable and **evidence-based, psychedelic-assisted therapy services across Australia.**

Mind Medicine Australia's Chairman, Peter Hunt AM says:

"...MDMA-assisted psychotherapy is showing very high remission rates in overseas trials and has also been shown to have high levels of safety and to be non-addictive when used in medically controlled environments. Negative side effects have also been minimal. Therapists have been specifically trained for this work through our certificate course and appropriate protocols developed with Emyria. The trial approach being taken by Emyria is also consistent with the Federal Government's recently announced grant of \$15 million for trials utilising hallucinogens or stimulant drugs supported by psychotherapy for treatment resistant mental illnesses."

Emyria's Managing Director, Dr. Michael Winlo says:

"There is growing international interest in the promise of psychedelic-assisted therapies for treating our most challenging mental health conditions. However, the care model and the drug intervention are intrinsically linked. This means any treatment will require a properly prepared and equipped clinical service - including specially trained clinicians and therapists. We also require more robust clinical evidence to guide future innovation and development in this space...."

A New Paradigm for Mental Health

Novel research and specialised training are needed because of the way MDMA-assisted therapy is delivered. The treatment is unlike traditional psychotherapy or



psychopharmacology. The psychotherapy is deeply intertwined with pharmacological intervention.

In general, MDMA-assisted therapy involves three general stages:

- **Preparation** – in which the therapist and patient get to know one another and build trust
- **Administration & Monitoring** – the patient, usually lying down and wearing an eye mask, is given a dose of MDMA and supported by two therapists during each session – which can last 6 to 8 hours
- **Integration** – the next day, and at weekly intervals for on average 3 occasions, the patient and therapist discuss the experience and how to integrate any insights into behavioural change

Some patients may need to repeat the cycles above and a clinical service must be prepared to support patients through the full experience and beyond.

Given the length of individual therapy sessions and the fact some patients may need to repeat part, or all of these cycles, there is a major need for properly prepared clinical services and specially trained psychotherapists to support psychedelic-assisted therapy at scale.

Further, any future regulation of these therapies is likely to consider the capabilities of the clinical service providing these treatments.

Mind Medicine Australia exists to help alleviate the suffering caused by mental illness in Australia through expanding the treatment options available to medical practitioners and their patients.

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)**
- **Dr Michael Winlo (Managing Director, Emyria)**
- **The Hon. Andrew Robb AO (MMA Director)** - Board Director of MMA and former Trade Minister to Australia who has had treatment resistant depression for 43 years.
- **Chris Barrie AC** - Board Director of MMA and former Head of the Armed Forces who says these treatments are the only hope for Veterans and others suffering with PTSD.

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