



MIND MEDICINE  
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## Media Alert: 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020

### Australian charity paving the way in psychedelic-assisted therapy launches FREE online webinar series during Mental Health Month

In a time when the mental health of the nation is under increasing pressure, Mind Medicine Australia has launched a free online Webinar Series for the Australian public. World-leading experts are brought straight into Australia's living rooms for discussion about the ground breaking opportunity psychedelic-assisted therapies offer us, and the solutions needed to address problems caused by long-term reliance on pharmaceuticals for mental health treatment.

The pioneering charity is shedding light on a conversation held in the dark for far too long. And with the mental health of Australians deteriorating in the face of 2020 bushfires and lockdowns, new hope is needed for the country's ailing mental healthcare system. For political reasons, psychedelic research and therapy have been largely prohibited since the 1970's. But over the past decade, research has finally begun again and is now reaching a tipping point.

Mind Medicine Australia recently released a report documenting [Covid-19 Significant Societal and Mental Health Impacts](#) and the findings show that radical action is required. Self-harm, suicide, drug & alcohol abuse and domestic violence are some of the most concerning symptoms on the rise due to this mental health crisis, and the ability of Australians to productively participate in our economy is also being severely affected.

According to Mind Medicine Australia's Chairman, Peter Hunt AM, ***"A proactive approach to broadening the treatment options available for people who have a mental illness is desperately needed. The rescheduling of Psilocybin and MDMA will represent a giant leap for innovation in mental healthcare, not only in Australia, but 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."***

Tania de Jong AM, 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 using these medicines can be effective after just two to three clinically supervised sessions. The medicines are safe and non-addictive when administered within a medically-controlled environment."***

Spaces for the webinars are limited. Those interested can sign-up at:  
<https://mindmedicineaustralia.org/events>



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About Us: <http://mindmedicineaustralia.org/>

Mind Medicine Australia is focused specifically on the clinical application of psilocybin assisted therapy and MDMA-assisted therapy for the treatment of mental illness. We do not advocate for non-clinical use of psychedelics or any other prohibited substances, nor do we advocate for any change to the law with respect to non-clinical use.

Mind Medicine Australia's Board, Management team, Ambassadors, and Advisory Panel members consist of leading practitioners in the applied treatment of mental illness, psychedelic medical research, health strategy, ethics, and other relevant fields from both Australia and overseas.

Please note the following are available for interview:

- The Hon. Andrew Robb AO
- Peter Hunt AM
- Tania de Jong AM
- Dr Simon Longstaff AO

**For further information, interviews or images please contact:**

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Please visit [www.mindmedicineaustralia.org](http://www.mindmedicineaustralia.org) for more information about our mission to help alleviate the suffering caused by mental illness in Australia through expanding the treatment options available to medical practitioners and their patients.