

A large, stylized network diagram in grey lines on a red background. It consists of a central circle connected to several other circles, which are further connected to a larger circle on the right. Three of the smaller circles contain white icons: a group of people, a magnifying glass, and a handshake.

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

The peak body for the Queensland
community mental health sector



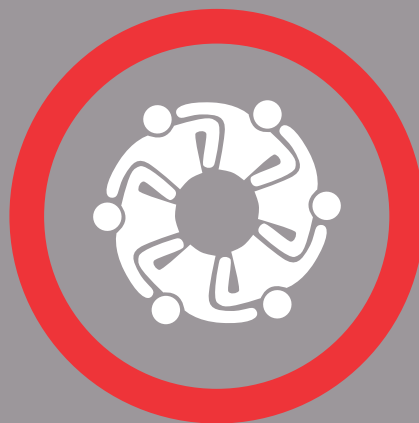
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QAMH has continued to represent our members with vigour, ensuring their needs are represented and heard.

Kris Trott, CEO

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CRAIG STANLEY-JONES

CHAIR REPORT



The past year has been one of considerable disruption for the community managed mental health sector. As many of our members will be aware, numerous organisations have made a range of important strategic and operational decisions. We have seen changes in frontline staff and senior management, including CEOs, across the membership.

With support, leadership and continued resilience, I believe our sector will adapt and become more agile into the future.

QAMH also continues to ensure the challenges impacting the sector are fully recognised and understood by policymakers. QAMH continues to have strong and healthy relationships with our fellow peak bodies, ensuring the needs

Growing work and family commitments reluctantly led me to this decision. It has been a pleasure to have had the opportunity to serve as QAMH Board Chair with such a committed group of Directors over the past two years. While I am no longer Board Chair, I will remain as a Director and continue as Chair of the Governance Sub-Committee.

“QAMH also continues to ensure the challenges impacting the sector are fully recognised and understood by policymakers.”

The transition to the NDIS has precipitated some of these decisions, although it is not the sole contributor. Some of our members have considered, or are considering, outsourcing, mergers, acquisitions or a combination of these actions which may have only been seen in the commercial and for-profit sectors in the past.

Given these circumstances, the role of the Queensland Alliance for Mental Health (QAMH), as the peak body for the sector, has never been more critical. QAMH has to continue to lead and be a clear voice articulating the benefits of the work of our members, to ensure our sector's viability over the period ahead. It is also vitally important that QAMH keeps members fully informed and across all the latest sector information and initiatives, so that organisations are ready for what's around the corner.

of the community managed mental health sector are heard and reflected in community and social services policy campaigns.

I am very pleased QAMH has continued to play an integral role in the Queensland Transition to NDIS for Mental Health Strategic (QTN) Forum. This forum provides the perfect opportunity for members to network with key leaders across the National Disability Insurance Agency, Queensland Health, Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, Commonwealth Department of Social Services, Commonwealth Department of Health, Primary Health Networks and Federal and State Ministers.

Change has also impacted upon the executive of the QAMH Board. It is with a heavy heart that I decided to resign as Board Chair effective from 10 May, 2018.

I'd like to congratulate Mark Fenton, Deputy Board Chair over the past two years, who was elected unanimously as the new Chair of QAMH. I also extend my congratulations to Alison Fairleigh as the new Deputy Board Chair. I wish Mark and Alison all the very best in their roles and look forward to QAMH continuing to be an influential peak body working to benefit our growing membership.

I want to thank the members of the Board for giving up their precious time and expertise for the benefit of the organisation.

I would also like to thank CEO Kris Trott and the wonderful staff of QAMH for your passion, dedication and enthusiasm and for the hard work you do in supporting our members.

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QAMH has to continue to lead and be a clear voice articulating the benefits of the work of our members, to ensure our sector's viability over the period ahead.

Craig Stanley-Jones



AN INTRODUCTION BY INCOMING CHAIR

MARK FENTON

I am honoured to be taking over the role of Chair of the Queensland Alliance for Mental Health from Craig Stanley-Jones. A big thank you goes to Craig for his tireless energy and support of QAMH and of the community mental health sector.

Over the coming 12 months I look forward to strengthening the organisational capacity of QAMH and assisting our members with the challenges ahead. As Craig has indicated, there has been significant change in the sector over the last 12 months and there's no doubt this rapid pace of change will continue in 2018-19.

I am already working closely with my fellow Board members and the staff of QAMH as we prepare for the challenging and exciting times ahead.



Our sector has seen a lot of change over the last year!

The transition to the NDIS has completely transformed our sector and reformed the way many providers deliver services. We've had the release of the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan, which rightly has a focus on better service coordination at a regional level. We've come through a State Election period, with our new Health Minister the Hon Dr Steven Miles MP formally extending existing contracts for state-funded community managed mental health organisations for a further 12 months.

Undoubtedly, the impact of the NDIS is profound and remains a significant challenge. Particularly as the transition occurs across Queensland's most populated areas over the coming months. Many of these rollout challenges were identified in the comprehensive 'Mind the Gap' report, released by our national peak Community Mental Health Australia in partnership with the University of Sydney. We remain alert to these challenges and continue to advocate on behalf of the sector and we'll keep fighting to ensure that we're minimising scheme gaps for individuals.

Craig will remain on the Board as a Director. Craig's direction as Chair of the Board has taken QAMH from an incorporated association to a company limited by guarantee. We are very pleased that Mark Fenton, Chief Financial Officer - Endeavour Foundation, was voted in to take over from Craig as the new Chair of the Board of QAMH. We are excited to have someone as experienced as Mark accept this crucial position for our organisation. I must also congratulate Alison Fairleigh, who was voted in as the Deputy Board Chair.

“Throughout these changes, the Queensland Alliance for Mental Health has continued to represent our members with vigour, ensuring their needs are represented and heard.”

Throughout these changes, the Queensland Alliance for Mental Health has continued to represent our members with vigour, ensuring their needs are represented and heard.

This coming year, Queensland Alliance for Mental Health will achieve a massive milestone. We'll be celebrating 20 years since our formal incorporation! It's amazing to think that for almost two decades our organisation has been representing our members as the peak body for the community mental health sector. However, I'm also mindful we can't sit back and take our position, or our members, for granted.

That's why we continue to represent the interests of our members at key sector strategic planning groups, in consultations with Ministers and decisionmakers, at NDIS strategic forums and in ongoing engagements with sector funding bodies, including Queensland Health and the Primary Health Networks. It's why we continue to advocate on the issues that are important to members through our submissions and policy papers. It's why we continue to host information events and training opportunities, to help our members prepare for what's around the corner.

I am proud of our achievements this year – both as a sector, and as a peak body.

However, we're also aware that there is much more happening in our sector than just the NDIS. One of the biggest issues on the horizon is the new State Government funding contracts for community managed mental health organisations. We hosted two forums last year, in partnership with Queensland Health, to keep members informed of what is occurring and we continue to talk to government about this process.

We're also mindful that Federal funding for mental health service providers will be delivered through the Primary Health Networks (PHNs), and QAMH has made a concerted effort to increase our engagement with PHN senior staff to ensure we're providing the most up-to-date and engaging information about what is happening back to members.

At an organisational level, we're implementing a new strategic plan with the view of building the reach of the QAMH. Our strategic priorities are:

- Community Mental Health Sector Advocacy;
- Membership Development;
- Stakeholder Engagement and Networking;
- Sustainable Peak Body.

Just as the sector has experienced change, so has the QAMH. This year we thank our outgoing Chair Craig Stanley-Jones for his dedication and support over the past 18 months.

The vision and support of the QAMH Board is central to our organisation, so I would like to thank the Board and Committee members for their dedication throughout the year.

The Board has also supported our organisation to be able to grow, to further enhance our advocacy and engagement activities. Through their support we've been able to expand our team and bring Tim Braban on as Senior Advisor – Policy and Advocacy. Tim has experience working in policy at a State Government level and as a journalist, and will play a critical role in delivering our new Strategic Plan. We've also appointed Jacklyn Whybrow as our Director – Partnerships and Engagement. Jacklyn brings extensive experience in the mental health sector as a clinician and manager across government and the not-for-profit sector.

I'd like to finish by thanking each and every one of our members for their support, insight and friendship over the last year. We do what we do because we're passionate about what you do and the fantastic services you provide in the community. To me, the Queensland Alliance for Mental Health has been successful and survived over two decades because members have remained at the centre of the organisation and I am absolutely committed to maintaining that focus and continuing to deliver for you all over the next 12 months.

KRIS TROTT

CEO MESSAGE



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It's amazing to think that for almost two decades our organisation has been representing our members as the peak body for the community mental health sector.

Kris Trott

WHO WE ARE

Queensland Alliance for Mental Health (QAMH) is the peak body representing the community mental health sector in Queensland.

We support our members and the wider mental health community in meeting the needs of people who have lived experience with mental health issues.

We're committed to supporting our community as they deliver quality mental health services in Queensland.

Our work is underpinned by the valued support of our members, who play a key role in assisting us to address structural challenges and to drive positive change.

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At QAMH, we champion the values and professionalism of mental health providers and their vital role in the broader health system.

Kris Trott, CEO





GOVERNANCE

After 18 months in the role, QAMH thanked outgoing Board Chair Craig Stanley-Jones and welcomed incoming Board Chair, Mark Fenton in May 2018. Mark takes over the position as Chair after previously serving as Deputy Chair. Alison Fairleigh was appointed Deputy Board Chair. Craig will remain on the Board and continues to Chair the Governance Sub-Committee.

QAMH has a Finance Sub-Committee and a Governance Sub-Committee which is governed by a Board of Directors with accountability to the members of the company.



CRAIG STANLEY-JONES
SKILL-BASED DIRECTOR
OUTGOING BOARD CHAIR
BOARD DIRECTOR
CHAIR OF THE GOVERNANCE
SUB-COMMITTEE

Over the past two decades, Craig Stanley-Jones has worked in various government and community roles within the mental health sector, including management and allied health roles within public and private clinical settings. The past eight of these years has been spent working in senior management roles in the community mental health sector.

Craig has led and assisted in the development and implementation of a range of community mental health programs across Queensland, including projects focusing on consumer participation and leadership. He brings a strong history of establishing strong effective partnerships and collaborations on a range of community and clinically-based programs and projects.



MARK FENTON
SKILL-BASED DIRECTOR
BOARD CHAIR
BOARD DIRECTOR
CHAIR OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Currently the Chief Financial Officer for Endeavour Foundation, Mark Fenton has over 15 years of experience as a company director and has served on the Boards of Queensland Ballet Company and John Paul College Limited.

He chaired the Arts Investment Advisory Board that provided strategic and funding advice to the Queensland Government, and is a director of Common Ground Queensland Ltd and the University of Queensland International House Foundation Ltd.

Mark is a finance executive with over 23 years of experience, is a fellow with CPA Australia and a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He has also worked for businesses in the professional services, manufacturing, retirement living, retail, and membership services sectors.



ALISON FAIRLEIGH
SKILL-BASED DIRECTOR
DEPUTY BOARD CHAIR
MEMBER OF THE GOVERNANCE
SUB-COMMITTEE

Alison brings extensive experience working in community mental health and primary health care, with expertise in rural and remote mental health, and suicide prevention. Currently a Senior Program Officer with the Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN), Alison is based in Townsville and passionately represents the interests of North Queensland. Alison also sits on the NQPHN Suicide Prevention Taskforce.

As a skills-based director, Alison brings to the QAMH Board expertise in community capacity-building, stakeholder engagement and sustainability planning. She has been instrumental in developing networks and partnerships across regional Queensland; and she is a dedicated advocate for the voice of lived experience – using consumer and community engagement as the primary source to drive and implement mental health reform.



NEIL BARRINGHAM
ELECTED DIRECTOR
MEMBER OF THE FINANCE
SUB-COMMITTEE

Neil Barringham is the Service Manager at 'A Place to Belong', Anglicare Southern Queensland, an organisation that works to develop the capacity of the community to build inclusion for people who experience mental health challenges. He is also a founding member and Board member of the Community Praxis Cooperative - a cooperative of community workers in Queensland contributing to training, organisational development, evaluations and community development projects.

With undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications in social work, Neil has extensive experience working with community groups and organisations. He deeply enjoys interacting with passionate people in the mental health and disability field about ways to build community-based supports and opportunities for participation. Neil also represents QAMH on the Human Rights Protection Framework Project Advisory Group.



VIVIANNE KISSANE
ELECTED DIRECTOR
MEMBER OF THE FINANCE
SUB-COMMITTEE

Viv Kissane is Founder and CEO of Brisbane-based charity, Peach Tree Perinatal Wellness (Peach Tree). This not-for-profit community organisation, founded in 2011, promotes perinatal mental wellness for mothers, partners, and families.

Viv's role as a mental health peer worker is dedicated to delivering peer support through community groups aimed at fostering inclusion and facilitating streamlined pathways to existing perinatal services.

As CEO of Peach Tree, Viv has developed and implemented prevention/early intervention educational programs and workshops dedicated to improving parental and infant mental health outcomes.



LEAH SOUTAR
SKILL-BASED DIRECTOR
MEMBER OF THE GOVERNANCE
SUB-COMMITTEE

Leah Soutar joined QAMH in 2015 and has extensive experience in leadership roles across consumer goods and professional services' sectors, with a particular focus on strategic planning and operational business improvement.

She is currently responsible for franchise recruitment within the pharmaceutical industry and has previously held senior roles with ASX listed Greencross Limited and Cerebos (Australia) Limited.

In 2016, Leah was recognised for academic achievement and contribution to community and awarded a scholarship with Torrens University Australia to attend the 15th World Congress on Public Health. Leah has previously served on the Board of Mental Illness Fellowship of Queensland (MIFQ) and is an Associate Fellow with the Institute of Managers and Leaders.

Leah holds a postgraduate qualification in business and is currently undertaking post graduate study in Public Health (Masters), which is providing an enriched understanding of the social determinants of health and the broader context in which policy and programs are developed, delivered and evaluated.



SHARON SARAH
SKILL-BASED DIRECTOR

Sharon Sarah has worked in the health and community sector for 25 years, primarily in the mental health sector, and is currently the CEO for Bridges Health and Community Care in the Wide Bay and Central Queensland regions.

She manages a diverse multi-disciplinary workforce, including people with a lived experience of mental illness and addictions. Sharon is passionate about system reform and collaborative practice to enhance consumer and carer outcomes, building a professional sustainable Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Workforce and strong clinical governance, particularly program fidelity and evidence-based practice.

She is committed to lifelong learning, sourced through both the health and business sector. She is a registered psychologist with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) Psychology and Masters in Mental Health Practice.

Sharon was the Branch Chair of the Australian Psychological Society for many years and is now a committee member and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management (AIM).



JESSICA GIBSON
SKILL-BASED DIRECTOR
MEMBER OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE

Currently an Associate Director in the People and Change team at KPMG, Jessica is a highly experienced management and organisational change professional, who has built a career helping organisations navigate through strategic, operational, technological, and cultural change.

She brings a wealth of experience in solving complex business problems across a number of sectors, including government, finance, banking, infrastructure, and information technology. At the core of her work is a desire to help businesses adapt in order to best deliver on their core values.

Jessica has a passion for supporting the not-for-profit sector and a personal commitment to driving improved outcomes for mental health in Australia.



KRIS TROTT **CEO**

Kris was Appointed CEO of QAMH in July 2015, bringing her extensive experience in finance, management and corporate governance to the role, with qualifications in finance accounting, human resource management, governance and company directorship.

She has held many senior leadership positions, including interim CEO, Autism Co-operative Research Centre; General Manager, QUT Enterprise Holdings and Managing Director, Business Governance Solutions.

Previously she has worked with a diverse range of not-for-profit organisations in the areas of community housing, autism, education, research, health and Indigenous health. This includes senior executive roles at several research centres in the areas of autism, vaccine technology, biosecurity, biomarkers and environmental biotechnology.



SARAH STODDART **MEMBER OF THE GOVERNANCE SUB-COMMITTEE**

Sarah Stoddart is an experienced legal practitioner who practises primarily in commercial, pharmacy and employment law, particularly for clients in the health industry. She is a Director of Stoddart Legal Pty Ltd and holds undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications in law and legal practice as well as admissions to both the Supreme Court of Queensland and High Court of Australia. Sarah regularly advises on business transactions and regulatory compliance issues and prepares detailed submissions to government departments. She also works with both employers and employees on industrial relations and human resource matters concerning all stages of an employment relationship. She is a personable and trusted advisor who is committed to high quality legal advice, practical options and business solutions.



CHRIS SKELTON **MEMBER OF THE GOVERNANCE SUB-COMMITTEE**

Chris Skelton has over 35 years of experience in professional services encompassing the provision of advisory, accounting and audit services to a diverse range of industries covering private business and public companies.

In his 25 years of experience as an Audit Partner at major accounting firm BDO, Chris has studied and assisted in the improvement of a wide variety of financial reporting systems. He is passionate about working with directors and management to help in their understanding of financial reporting information, and enjoys unlocking the myths associated with accounting and making the numbers understandable and useful. He has undergraduate qualifications in Business, in addition to an array of roles and memberships outside of his daily practice, including, but not limited to, Fellowships with the Governance Institute of Australia, Queensland and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand.



JULIA RIORDAN **COMPANY SECRETARY**

Julia Riordan brings extensive international and Australian experience in executive assistant roles in corporate, government and non-government organisations to her role as QAMH's Executive Officer, where she works closely with the CEO, supporting her across the everyday running of the business.

She has completed her Certificate in Governance Practice and undertakes the role of Company Secretary for QAMH. Julia is also the secretariat for the Queensland Transition to NDIS for Mental Health Strategic Forum.

Julia worked for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet in Policy and Governance Divisions for 12 years before joining QAMH, initially as Executive Assistant to the CEO, in 2012. She has contributed to all aspects of the business, including office management, communications, finance, membership management, event organisation and Secretary of QAMH State Council. She is passionate and committed to her role in community mental health and the broad contribution it makes to the community.

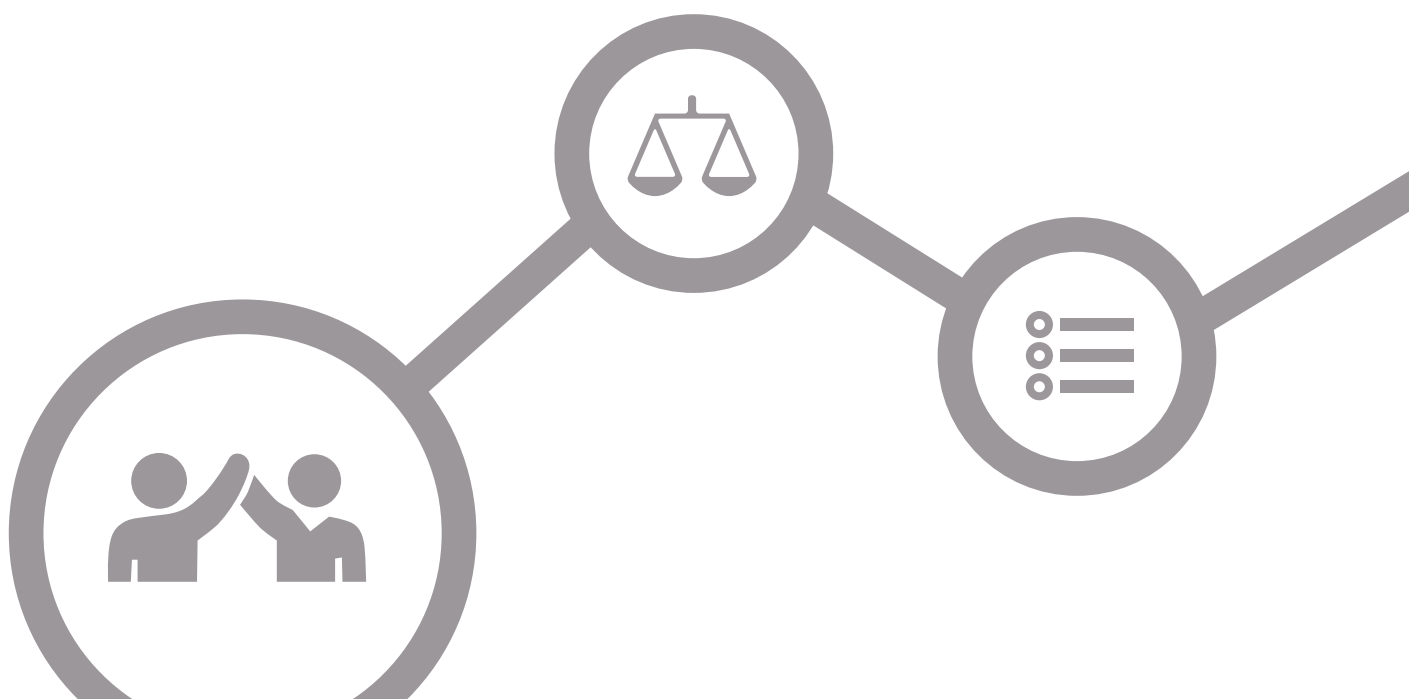


WENDY REILLY **SENIOR COMPANY SECRETARY** **(UNTIL NOVEMBER 2017)**

Wendy Reilly is the Principal of Governance Connections, a business that supports for profit and not-for-profit organisations in their corporate governance, business management, project management and strategic planning activities, and always ensures that compliance and corporate governance requirements are set at a high standard. She is also presently a Director and Company Secretary for an IT company.

Wendy has a wealth of experience in the business management and financial administration of not-for-profit organisations in the research, health and education sectors. She is a Chartered Secretary, who holds a Bachelor of Science majoring in Psychology, a Graduate Diploma in Applied Corporate Governance and a Graduate Diploma in Company Directorship.

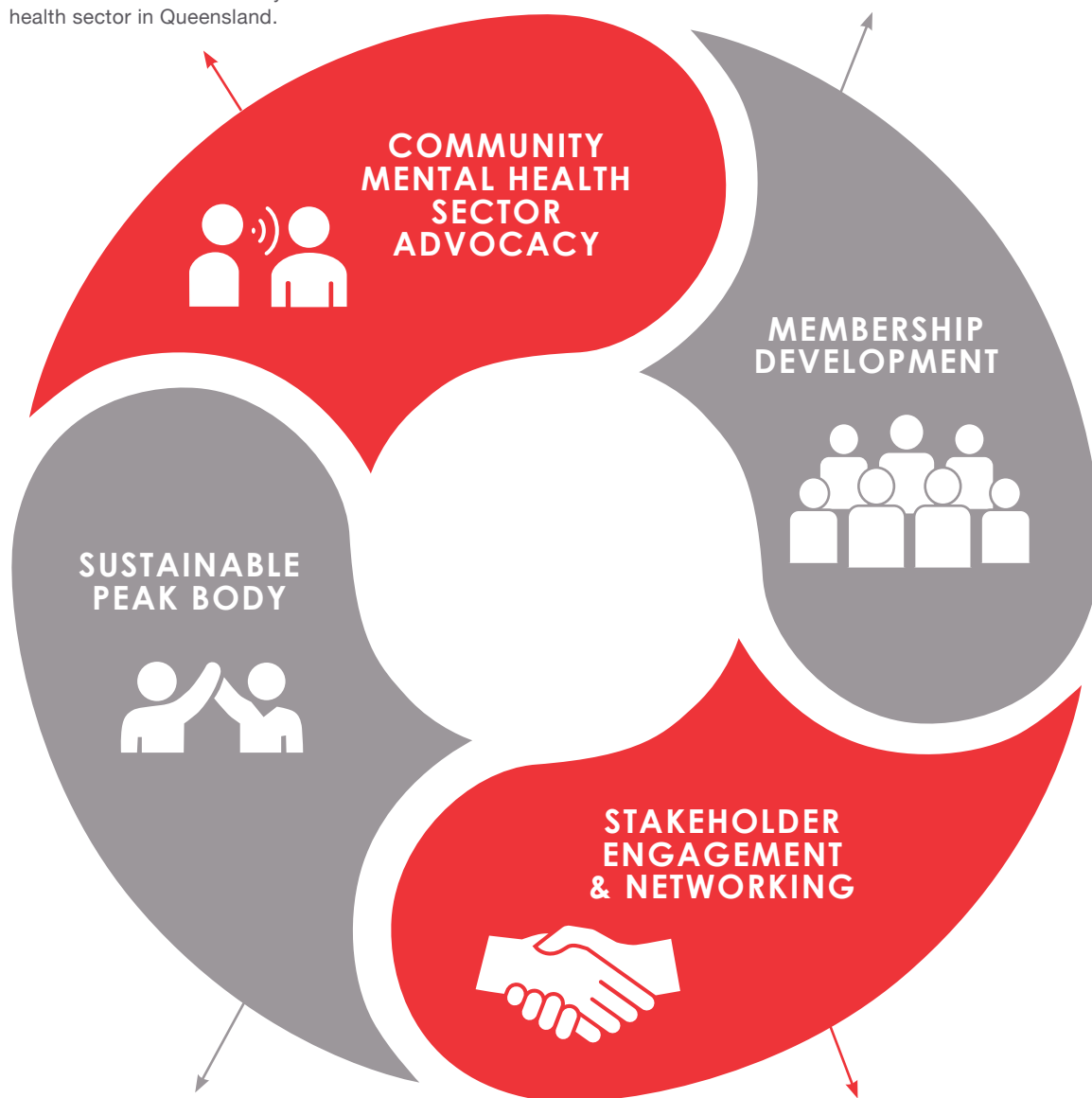
She has also been the Company Secretary of joint venture boards, small private companies and unlisted public companies and has considerable experience engaging with Commonwealth and State Government organisations.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- QAMH will be the trusted source for advice and engagement on community mental health sector issues in Queensland.
- QAMH will continue to influence decision makers and advocate on behalf of its members and the community mental health sector in Queensland.

QAMH will continually develop and enhance its value proposition for membership of QAMH, to attract and retain a broad membership base in the Queensland community mental health sector.



QAMH is to be a leading peak body and to support the Queensland community mental health sector, it has to have strong governance, financial position and corporate structures and be robust, responsive to opportunities and resilient to change/challenges.

QAMH creates new, and further enhances existing networks that ensure strong engagement with all stakeholders across Queensland.



COMMITTEES, GROUPS & FORUMS

Q AMH takes pride in representing its members and remaining connected with the sector. To do this we attend a wide range of committee meetings, networking events and workshops. Some of these are listed below:

- Queensland NDIS Transition Advisory Group – chaired by Minister Coralee O'Rourke
- Queensland Transition to NDIS for Mental Health Strategic Forum
- Queensland Health – Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch sector discussions
- Mental Health Quality Non-government Organisation Oversight
- Queensland Primary Health Care Network
- Queensland Mental Health Commission Mental Health Week Working Group
- Queensland Mental Health Commission – Consumer, Family and Carers Project Reference Group
- Queensland Mental Health Commission – Live Well Action Working Group
- Logan Mental Health Network
- Bayside Mental Health Network
- Metro South Hospital and Health Service Integrated Planning
- Metro North Hospital and Health Service Community Board Advisory Group
- Brisbane/Metro Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategic Coordination Group
- Brisbane North PiR Consortia Management Committee
- Collaboration in Mind (Brisbane North PHN)
- West Moreton – Oxley Partners in Recovery Consortium Management Committee
- Peer Participation Network in Mental Health – Brisbane South PHN
- Suicide Prevention Taskforce – Understanding & Enhancing First Response to Suicide Crisis Structure (North Queensland PHN)
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists Queensland – Mental Health Stakeholder Network
- Queensland Community Services Peak Body Collaboration
- Human Rights Protection Framework Project Advisory Group
- Community Mental Health Australia Executive Leadership Group
- Community Mental Health Australia Board



INDUSTRY PARTNERS

Thank you to our Industry Partners
for your continued support throughout the 2018 year.





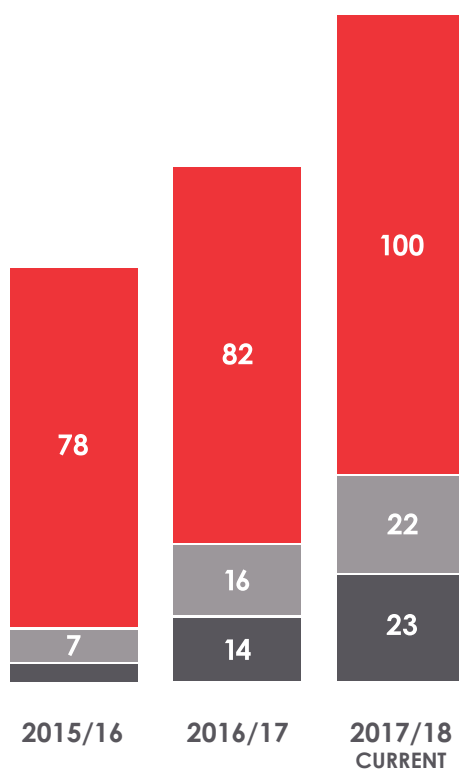
OUR MEMBERS

Our Members remain at the core of QAMH's strategic priorities and focus. In the 2017-18 year we are very pleased to report the number of members across all three levels of membership increased.

Our representation is built on the meaningful partnerships we have with our members. We understand our members are the core of what we do and utilise them to keep our finger on the pulse. The strong partnerships we have established are vital to informing our policy work and advocacy campaigns. We have relied on our members to provide us with details of the challenges ahead and learnings the sector has made over the year.

These learnings form the basis of our advocacy campaigns and our representations at a number of strategic groups and forums. QAMH Board members and staff represent the sector on a wide range of committees across the state.

MEMBERSHIPS



MEMBERSHIP TYPE:

- General Member
- Associate Industry
- Associate Individual





REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

QAMH is strongly focused on developing our engagement with community mental health organisations outside of the south-east corner. Regional engagement is a core component of what we do and sits at the heart of our strategic priorities.

Our Regional Engagement Coordinator, Siofra Cunningham is there to provide support, facilitate alliances across the state and ensure engagement and a two-way flow of information with members and stakeholders across Queensland.

During 2017-18, Siofra travelled to locations including Mount Isa, Atherton, Gayndah, Rockhampton and Cairns, to name just a few, to meet directly and engage with our members and other key stakeholders. The Regional Engagement Coordinator and other senior staff participated in a total of 98 regional engagement meetings and helped to support 11 regional networks across Queensland.



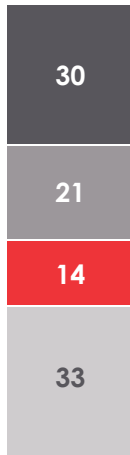
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It's been almost two years since I took on the position as Regional Engagement Coordinator and in that time I've seen alliances develop and our regions having a stronger voice. I love my job, because it takes me across the State to meet people working hard every day for their communities. Our regions have faced significant challenges, particularly in this period of transition, but that hasn't tempered the passion of our members and their staff working in regional Queensland. I look forward to working with you all in the year ahead and ensuring the voice of the regions continues to be a central part of QAMH's work.

Siofra Cunningham,
Regional Engagement Coordinator



REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS



2017/18

- Quarter 1
- Quarter 2
- Quarter 3
- Quarter 4

REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH NETWORKS

BUNDABERG	All Abilities Alliance
CAIRNS	Far North Queensland Mental Health Alliance
ROCKHAMPTON	Rockhampton Mental Health AOD Interagency Stakeholders Group
GAYNDAH	North Burnett Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Hub
IPSWICH	West Moreton Mental Health Collaborative Network
MACKAY	Mackay Regional Mental Health Network
MOUNT ISA	North West Mental Health Network
ATHERTON	Tablelands Mental Health Alliance
TOOWOOMBA	Toowoomba Mental Health Community Network and Toowoomba Mental Health Collaborative
TOWNSVILLE	North Queensland Alliance for Mental Health
SUNSHINE COAST	Sunshine Coast Mental Health Network

Our regional engagement activities ensure member organisations across the State are engaged, that the on-the-ground experiences of our members continue to be reflected in the work of QAMH and that there continues to be strong networking between organisations and sector leaders to improve collaboration.



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With the changing landscape of the sector, new challenges, new funding opportunities and the continued transition to the NDIS, our connection to QAMH is more important than ever.

Chair of the Far North Queensland
Mental Health Alliance



SUBMISSIONS

QAMH continues to take an active role advocating to government and fighting for positive policy outcomes on behalf of the sector. One of the ways we do this is through the production of comprehensive and detailed submissions to government and other key bodies. These submissions highlight focal issues for our sector and provide central documents around which advocacy and engagement strategies are built.

SENATE INQUIRY INTO RURAL AND REMOTE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

In March, the Federal Senate referred an inquiry looking at the accessibility and quality of mental health services in rural and remote Australia to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee.

QAMH has been actively engaged in this process and led the way in fighting for a fairer deal for the regions.

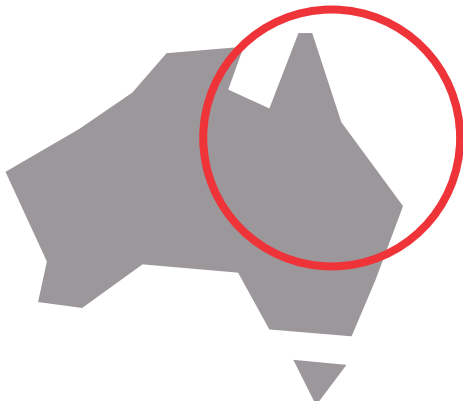
In partnership with the Northern Territory Mental Health Coalition, QAMH provided a detailed submission to the Senate Committee, informed by direct engagement with members, highlighting the most significant challenges in delivering mental health services in the bush.

Some key issues included:

- Stigma and the culture of self-reliance in country areas
- People putting their farms and businesses ahead of their personal health
- The significant travel distances required to access services – time and cost
- The difficulty in recruiting and retaining health professionals into rural and remote regions
- Environmental issues affecting resilience and mental health in communities, including the ongoing drought
- The need to develop a well-trained and well-resourced Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health workforce to help deliver equitable care.

During the following financial year, the Senate Committee held hearings in regional communities throughout Australia, including in Queensland. QAMH attended and provided evidence to the hearing held in Townsville

We have also delivered an advocacy campaign centred around our submission, which has resulted in media coverage of this issue in many regional locations, including Townsville, Far North Queensland, Mackay, Central Queensland and across the ABC regional radio network.



2017 STATE ELECTION ADVOCACY

In the lead-up to the 2017 State Election campaign QAMH was active in engaging with all political parties. Our engagement with members and advocacy work resulted in the production of our 2017 State Election Priorities, which was sent to all parties. Our priorities document highlighted the most pressing issues facing the community mental health sector and pressured each party to put forward their plans for the next term of Parliament to improve the mental health of Queenslanders.

2018-19 STATE BUDGET SUBMISSION



Following the Queensland State Election, QAMH quickly began engaging with the new Health Minister Dr Steven Miles MP and Opposition Health Spokesperson Ros Bates MP. We also submitted a comprehensive Queensland State Budget Submission which identified four key areas where investment and leadership are needed to successfully deliver outcomes for people living with or at risk of developing a mental illness:

- The implementation of the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan
- The improved rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Queensland
- Concerns regarding continuity of support for people deemed to be ineligible to receive the NDIS
- Funding certainty for community managed mental health organisations.

We've used this document as a focal point for conversations with key decisionmakers, including politicians and senior public servants, about what future actions can be taken to support community managed mental health providers.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON NDIS INQUIRY INTO MARKET READINESS



The Federal Joint Standing Committee is tasked with inquiring into the implementation, performance, governance and administration of the NDIS across the country. In December 2017, the Committee was tasked with inquiring and reporting on market readiness for the provision of services under the NDIS. QAMH's submission to this inquiry drew from and reflected the experiences of our member organisations in areas where the NDIS transition had started.

QAMH's submission highlighted the particular challenges providers in regional communities face and the impact that a lack of choice in providers has on NDIS participants living in country areas.





TRANSITIONING TO THE NDIS

We strive to provide high quality information and services to benefit our members. Some of these services include workshops and networking opportunities, such as the 'Mind the Gap' workshop and the Queensland Transition to NDIS for Mental Health Strategic Forum.

The 'Mind the Gap' workshop was a one-day only event held in November 2017 with the intent to future proof organisations against the impending changes caused by the NDIS and to highlight transition gaps. Speakers included the Queensland Mental Health Commissioner Ivan Frkovic and topics for discussion included workforce management, strategic alliances and mergers and innovation in service delivery.

This was followed by the Queensland Transition to NDIS for Mental Health (QTN) Strategic Forum held in March 2017. QAMH organises and chairs the QTN Forum, which brings together key stakeholders to develop a shared vision for a future service system upon the implementation of the NDIS. Key speakers at the forum included NDIA Mental Health Advisor Dr Gerry Naughtin and (now former) National Mental Health Commission CEO Dr Peggy Brown AO. The forum was attended by senior representatives of the Queensland Government and the National Disability Insurance Agency.

QAMH is a member and also represents the community mental health sector at the Queensland NDIS Transition Advisory Group. This group provides advice to the Queensland Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors and the Queensland Government on strategic issues relating to Queensland's final year of transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.



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I am very proud of the event that QAMH hosted which gave organisations the opportunity to hear from experts covering a broad range of topics including clinical governance, customer service and operational efficiencies.”

Kris Trott, CEO



COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA

Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) is a coalition of the eight State and Territory community mental health peak bodies. CMHA was established to provide leadership and direction to promote the importance and benefits of community mental health and recovery services across Australia.

Amanda Bresnan is the CEO of CMHA and is located in Melbourne. We thank and congratulate Amanda, for her continued hard work and tireless representation of the community mental health sector on a national level.



During 2017, Amanda was voted onto the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) Board. CMHA is a national member organisation of ACOSS and Amanda will represent CMHA on the Board. During 2017-18, Amanda represented CMHA on the Primary Health Network Advisory Panel on Mental Health, established by Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health; and was appointed to the Mental Health Plan Expert Reference Panel, established by the Mental Health Principle Committee to assist with the implementation and oversight of the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan.

CMHA continued its representation on the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) CEO Forum; NDIA National Mental Health Sector Reference Group; Mental Health Reform Stakeholder Group; and Close the Gap Campaign Steering Committee.

CMHA held the inaugural National NDIS and Mental Health Conference in 2017. The conference brought together 489 people from community-based organisations and government services and agencies, along with consumer and carer representatives.

During 2017-18 CMHA made a number of submissions including:

- Productivity Commission NDIS Costs Position Paper
- Senate Community Affairs Committee NDIS Amendment (Quality and Safeguards Commission and Other Measures) Bill 2017
- Joint submission with Mental Illness Fellowship Australia to the McKinsey NDIS Independent Price Review
- Senate Community Affairs Committee inquiry into Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017
- Senate Community Affairs Committee inquiry into the NDIS Amendment (Quality and Safeguards Commission and Other Measures) Bill 2017
- Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS Inquiry into Market Readiness
- Closing the Gap Refresh
- Senate Community Affairs Committee inquiry into the accessibility and quality of mental health services in rural and remote Australia.
- Joint submission with Mental Health Carers Australia on the Integrated Carer Support Service: Regional Delivery Partners Regional Delivery Mode
- Senate Committee on Education and Employment inquiry into the mental health of first responders.

CMHA also made a 2018-19 Federal Pre-Budget Submission which recommended that the Federal Government progress the following key initiatives in mental health:

- Establish a national overarching and coordinated policy reform structure
- Establish an independent price regulation body for the NDIS
- Develop an alternative gateway for people with psychosocial disability to access the NDIS
- Undertake a review of the NDIS Act.



NEWPARADIGM

CMHA continues to produce the high-quality publication NewParadigm – the Australian Journal on Psychosocial Rehabilitation. NewParadigm encourages discussion and information in areas including innovative service programs, new research and current thinking on mental health policy. It is produced in partnership with Mental Health Victoria and QAMH sits on the NewParadigm editorial committee.

QAMH APPRECIATES THE RELATIONSHIPS WE HAVE WITH OUR SISTER PEAK BODIES ACROSS AUSTRALIA.



HIGHLIGHTS



QUEENSLAND AUDIT OFFICE

In May, the Queensland Audit Office (QAO) released its report looking into the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in Queensland. After contacting the QAO, QAMH was invited to provide information and evidence to the auditors on the challenges and barriers people with psychosocial disability are experiencing. QAMH CEO Kris Trott said the QAO report made a number of recommendations to

improve Queensland's readiness once the rollout is complete. "It was particularly important to talk about psychosocial disability, the gaps in services for people who are ineligible for the scheme and the importance of mainstream service coordination, as many people have contact with the health, housing, education and other systems. We need to ensure the NDIS is understood and integrated across all of government".

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2017

In 2017, QAMH administered the Queensland Mental Health Week Community Events grant program on behalf of the Queensland Mental Health Commission (QMHC).

The QMHC allocated \$85,000 for this program, which focused on providing funding assistance to organisations holding registered Mental Health Week events.

A total of 71 applications were received and a total of \$88,670 was awarded in small grants.

The grants opened on 8 August 2017 and were promoted through many networks, including social media, our website, the Local Government Association of Queensland

and all councils, the community mental health sector and QAMH members.

The evaluation panel consisted of representatives from QAMH, QMHC, Hamilton Consulting and Enlightened Consultants.

Applicants ranged from schools to local councils to Rotary clubs and community mental health organisations. Some of the highlights included: outdoor movies and night markets in Cloncurry, organised by Centacare North Queensland; an art competition in Cairns organised by headspace Cairns; and Mental Awareness Foundation's 2017 Walk for Awareness.



QUEENSLAND HEALTH FORUMS

QAMH also hosted two forums in partnership with Queensland Health in March and May. These forums discussed mental health in Queensland in the context of the implementation of the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan. The expiry of the current community mental health service agreements with the State Government was also raised. The March event included presentations from senior Queensland Health officials on the current policy landscape, while the May seminar included presentations on how service providers can better integrate and collaborate with Hospital and Health Services. QAMH has remained in constant contact with Queensland Health officials over the tender process for new community mental health service agreements and continues to provide updates and information back to our members.



WORKING WITH THE SOCIAL SERVICES PEAKS

The Queensland Community Services Peaks have been collaborating for change for decades, focused on some of the most vulnerable Queenslanders. QAMH has this year come together with a group of 12 other Queensland peaks to work collectively on issues of shared significance – because we know we can deliver more if we work together than stand alone.

QCOSS, COTA, NDS, Volunteering Queensland, ECCQ, Community Legal Centres Queensland, QShelter, QDN, PeakCare, QATSICPP, CSIA, QAMH and Tenants Queensland have committed to working together and with all stakeholders to implement successful reform in these four critical areas:

1. The National Disability Insurance Scheme
2. Family Matters
3. A Human Rights Act for Queensland
4. Safe, Accessible and Affordable Housing

QAMH has been leading the NDIS campaign, including facilitating meetings with the NDIA and the State Government and rolling out an advocacy campaign to provide more information about the scheme to harder-to-reach groups, so eligible people don't miss out on this once-in-a-generation reform.





QAMH IN THE MEDIA

We understand that one of the best ways of promoting and advocating on issues that are vitally important to our members is through our engagement with mainstream and grassroots media organisations. This was a focus yet again during 2017-18, with QAMH using our profile as a trusted peak body to promote the many campaigns we executed across the year.

NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

We've also taken every opportunity to participate in public discussions and forums about the NDIS to highlight the difficulties for people with psychosocial disability in accessing plans and fight to ensure there continues to be support for people with ongoing mental health conditions that are ineligible for the scheme.

CEO Kris Trott attended an NDIS Forum at the ABC Studios on behalf of the sector (pictured below asking a question).



MIND THE GAP

QAMH supported Community Mental Health Australia and its partner the University of Sydney to produce the comprehensive Mind the Gap report, released in January 2018. Mind the Gap not only highlighted the many issues people with psychosocial disability have in accessing the NDIS, it also identified a range of solutions to deliver better outcomes. Our CEO Kris Trott used the report as a focal point for her discussions with media organisations and other key stakeholders.

Kris Trott, the CEO of the Queensland Alliance for Mental Health, said this report confirmed what they had heard from their members and the broader community mental health sector.

"We are most concerned about the [effect] that these gaps, not the least of which is access to planning and supports, will have on our members," Trott said.

"As community mental health organisations they already deal with limited funding, increasing and complex need, vast geographical distances, and the challenges of hiring and retaining talented and experienced staff. This is another set of obstacles for our members and the people they serve."

Quoted in ProBono Australia article 'New Report Highlights NDIS Gaps for People With Severe Mental Illness' released 31 January 2018.



RURAL AND REMOTE

QAMH has been active in regional locations highlighting the need for more investment and equitable access to services. In 2017-18 Kris spoke to a number of local news organisations about the difficulties of accessing mental health services in the bush, including ABC regional radio, Southern Cross radio in Cairns, Grant Broadcasters radio in Mackay and Townsville and an extended interview with media identity Ben Dobbin for his Rural Queensland Today radio program.



STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Events and operating	9,249	6,842
Grants received	1,508,429	1,015,487
Interest received	9,311	19,815
Member subscriptions	97,646	79,851
Other income	705	705
TOTAL INCOME	1,624,635	1,122,700
EXPENDITURE		
Advertising	(24,911)	(15,867)
Computer, telephone and internet	(28,661)	(22,283)
Consulting and professional fees	(50,177)	(141,409)
Employee benefits expense	(786,155)	(671,593)
Equipment	(9,469)	(6,864)
Insurance	(5,281)	(5,522)
Meetings expenses	(4,503)	(5,764)
Membership fees paid	(11,843)	(11,252)
Planning and capacity building	(35,788)	(19,672)
Printing and stationery	(6,329)	(4,509)
Project expenses	(94,842)	(13,536)
Rental Outgoings	(55,725)	(59,271)
Sponsorship	(3,000)	-
Sundry expenses	(29,979)	(28,057)
Training	(14,527)	(2,437)
Travel and accommodation	(46,969)	(37,314)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	(1,208,159)	(1,045,347)
TOTAL SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	416,476	77,353



FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 30 JUNE 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,515,033	1,305,950
Trade and other receivables	74,662	73,080
Other assets	3,683	5,450
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,593,378	1,384,480
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	-	-
Intangible assets	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	1,593,378	1,384,480
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	104,057	82,100
Employee benefits	35,949	35,238
Other financial liabilities	464,413	694,657
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	604,419	811,995
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	604,419	811,995
NET ASSETS	988,959	572,485
EQUITY		
Retained earnings	988,959	572,485
TOTAL EQUITY	988,959	572,485



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