



# ANNUAL REPORT 2017



# QAMH THANKS YOU

“No organisation is an island and we stand stronger when we stand together. We all need support and we thank the organisations and individuals that have supported, enabled and strengthened our work over the past year.” Kris Trott, CEO

Members are QAMH's highest priority and we want to thank our new, returned and continuing members for their engagement with us. They inform much of the work we do, and the working relationships and open, two-way communication we have with them is of great value to us and the sector.

QAMH recognises and is grateful for the funding received by the Queensland Government, Department of Health that enables us to support and serve the community mental health sector. We value the positive working relationships held with both the Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch and the Community Services Funding Branch, and key partner organisation, Queensland Mental Health Commission.

QAMH thanks the other state peak bodies, and our national peak body, Community Mental Health Australia, that contributed to making this such a rewarding year. We also appreciate the relationships we have with our sister peak bodies across Australia.

We especially want to acknowledge the important contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and that mental health is just one element of a holistic conceptualisation of health and wellbeing. Further, we recognise the need for funding and resourcing models that enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to determine and deliver culturally appropriate services within their own communities.

We thank those with a lived experience of mental health issues, their families, carers and friends who display courage and strength by sharing their stories with us. Learning from the personal experiences of a mental health journey is of great value and teaches us how to better meet and advocate for their needs. These individuals and communities have greatly strengthened our position to support the community mental health sector, and we thank them for this.

We look forward to future working relationships, partnerships and collaborations with you all in the coming year, as we support those who support people with lived experience of mental health issues, their families and carers.



# CONTENTS

Chair Report	4-5
CEO Report	6-7
Who We Are	8
Governance	9-13
Strategic Priorities	14-15
Our Members	16-17
Regional Engagement	18-19
Projects	20-21
Transitioning to the NDIS	22-23
Community Mental Health Australia	24-25
Highlights of the Year	26-29
Financial Report	30-31



”

During this milestone year for the sector, QAMH has continued to make a vital and significant contribution in sharing information, building capacity and representing issues faced by organisations.

# CHAIR REPORT

## CRAIG STANLEY-JONES

The most prominent adjustment for the community mental health sector in Queensland has been the transition of the following regions into the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) up to June 30, 2017:

- Townsville, Hinchinbrook, Burdekin, west to Mt Isa and up to the gulf
- Mackay, Isaac and Whitsundays
- Toowoomba and west to the border

I thank my predecessor Cathy O'Toole for her commitment to the QAMH Board and community mental health sector in Queensland, especially those in regional and remote areas. I congratulate her on her 2016 election to Federal Parliament as the Member for Herbert, where she now advocates for, and represents, the people of Townsville.

*"It has been a challenging year and I would like to thank my fellow QAMH Board members for their collaboration, ongoing contribution and provision of expert advice at crucial times throughout the year."*

This transition has been significantly challenging for the sector as all organisations make strategic and operational decisions to address the changing funding structures implicit with the introduction of the NDIS.

The announcement by Queensland Health to extend the Community Managed Mental Health Programs by another 12 months to June 30, 2018 has been welcomed. It is hoped that a decision on recommissioning or continuing funding for these important services and programs will be made well before June 30, 2018.

During this milestone year for the sector, QAMH has continued to make a vital and significant contribution in sharing information, building capacity and representing issues faced by organisations. QAMH convening and chairing the Queensland Transition to NDIS for Mental Health Strategic Forum (QTN Forum) continues to provide our membership with opportunities to access, raise and address issues of critical importance with key leaders across the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), Queensland Health, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, Department of Social Services, Commonwealth Department of Health, Primary Health Networks and Federal and State MPs.

I would like to thank the QAMH CEO, management and all staff for their ongoing commitment and efforts to sustain, support and promote a high-quality Queensland community mental health sector.

The appointment by QAMH of a dedicated full-time Regional Engagement Coordinator to more actively support members in rural and remote areas, has been an important step in strengthening information sharing and inter-organisational collaboration across the regions.

It has been a challenging year and I would like to thank my fellow QAMH Board members for their collaboration, ongoing contribution and provision of expert advice at crucial times throughout the year. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Deputy Chair and Chair of the Finance Sub-Committee Mark Fenton and Board Company Secretaries Wendy Reilly and Julia Riordan.

In addition, the Board members who have taken up roles on the sub-committees and continue to be present and devote precious time in their busy schedules in the best interest of QAMH. Finally, I would like to pay tribute to Bob Steele who stepped down from the QAMH Board / State Council in November 2016.

Bob was Treasurer and Board / State Council Member with QAMH for a decade. His endless contribution, intellect and fearless advocacy around the sustainability and continuous improvement of QAMH will be missed.

”

QAMH has focused on ensuring the services and support we provide, membership value we offer and business foundation we operate under are resilient, sustainable and prepared for future growth.



# CEO REPORT

## KRIS TROTT

In recent years, the community mental health sector has been marked by uncertainty and change. Like many community mental health organisations, QAMH has restructured and adapted to the challenges faced in 2016/17.

QAMH has focused on ensuring the services and support we provide, membership value we offer and business foundation we operate under are resilient, sustainable and prepared for future growth.

QAMH has worked at the state and national level to represent members and the community mental health sector affected by the NDIS. We continued to engage with state and federal governments and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to advocate for a Scheme that is fit for purpose for people with psychosocial disabilities, to ensure they receive the necessary funding and support to enable them to live a quality life.

**“We continued to actively engage with our stakeholders, while also expanding our services to provide greater support and advocacy for our members and the community mental health sector.”**

We continued to actively engage with our stakeholders, while also expanding our services to provide greater support and advocacy for our members and the community mental health sector.

One key milestone was obtaining core funding security from Queensland Health for four and half years from 1 January, 2017. This enabled QAMH to strategically plan for the longer term on how to support the sector across the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) transition roll-out when support will be most needed, and we sincerely thank Queensland Health for its support.

Our strategic planning was undertaken in May 2017, and we committed to:

- Develop and continually enhance our value proposition for membership, to attract and retain a broad membership base in the community mental health sector.
- Continue to influence decision-makers and advocate on behalf of our members and the community mental health sector.
- Create new, and further enhance, existing networks to ensure strong engagement with all stakeholders.
- Grow membership and services through diversifying funding and collaboration with like-minded organisations.

This year we welcomed many new members and the return of several lapsed members. Members are our foundation and we express our gratitude and appreciation to our new, returned and continuing members for their sustained commitment and support. We look forward to supporting, advocating for and representing you in the coming years.

I acknowledge and thank QAMH's Board Chair, Board and Committee Members for their dedication, guidance and wisdom as we lead this organisation through a time of change and development.

Finally, nothing could be achieved without the support of an exceptional team of people, our staff and consultants who go far beyond their duty statements. Through the united efforts of so many, we can make a difference and achieve so much.

Many thanks everyone!



# WHO WE ARE



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

We work to promote the values and professionalism of our members by focusing on outcomes, building innovative partnerships, carving a role for community mental health in the healthcare continuum and promoting the meaningful integration of community mental health services into the broader health system.

Representing and supporting services and groups that meet the needs of people who have lived experience with mental health issues, their friends, family and carers, QAMH leads the community mental health sector by supporting members, prioritising needs and building capacity.

## OUR VISION:

STRONG,  
INCLUSIVE  
AND  
RESILIENT  
COMMUNITIES

## OUR MISSION:

TO BE THE VOICE OF  
MENTAL HEALTH  
COMMUNITIES,  
CREATING CONNECTIONS,  
PROVIDING LEADERSHIP  
AND SUPPORTING  
BETTER OUTCOMES

## OUR VALUES:

ADVOCACY,  
TRUST,  
RELEVANCE &  
RESPONSIVENESS,  
LEADERSHIP,  
DIVERSITY.



# GOVERNANCE



On November 9, 2016, QAMH smoothly transitioned from an Incorporated Association under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 (Qld) to a Public Company Limited by Guarantee under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth). An incorporated company is often the preferred legal structure for not-for-profit organisations as it is recognised and favoured when entering into contracts and to be able to diversify revenue streams outside of state boundaries.

Consequently, QAMH has begun laying the foundations for diversifying its revenue and has developed and delivered the NDIS Governance Essentials and the NDIS Risk Management Courses in collaboration with the Governance Institute of Australia in 2017.

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



## **CRAIG STANLEY-JONES** ELECTED DIRECTOR, BOARD CHAIR AND CHAIR OF THE GOVERNANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Over the past 20 years, 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, DEPUTY CHAIR AND CHAIR OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Currently the Chief Financial Officer for Endeavour Foundation, Mark Fenton has over 14 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 for the University of Queensland International House Foundation Limited and Common Ground Queensland Ltd.

Mark is a finance executive with over 22 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** ELECTED (NFP) DIRECTOR  
AND MEMBER OF THE GOVERNANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Alison brings extensive experience working in the community mental health sector; particularly in rural and remote mental health. Alison is focused on building capacity and sustainability in farming communities and has been instrumental in developing regional networks and partnerships.

She has successfully used social media to shine a light on life in rural and remote Australia and is passionate about improving the wellbeing of people in remote locations through digital interventions. In 2013, Alison was chosen as the Royal Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) Queensland Rural Woman of the Year and is an Australia Day Ambassador.



**NEIL BARRINGHAM** ELECTED DIRECTOR  
AND 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 the community, having been a member of West End Grow, management committee member of Community Initiative Resource Association and was the founding member of Inner-city Citizen Advocacy. He deeply enjoys interacting with passionate people in the mental health and disability fields about ways to build community-based supports and opportunities for participation.



**VIVIANNE KISSANE** ELECTED DIRECTOR  
AND MEMBER OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Viv Kissane is Founder and CEO of Brisbane-based charity, Peach Tree Perinatal Wellness (Peach Tree). This a 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  
AND 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) 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 21 years, primarily in the mental health sector and is currently the CEO for Bridges Health & Community Care in the Wide Bay region.

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 from both the health and business sector. She is a registered practicing psychologist with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) Psychology and Masters in Mental Health Practice.

Sharon is the current Branch Chair of the Australian Psychological Society and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management (AIM).



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

Currently a Manager 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. However, 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 QAMH CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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 health, community housing, autism, education, research and Indigenous health, including in senior executive roles for several research centres in the areas of vaccine technology, biosecurity, biomarkers and environmental biotechnology.



## WENDY REILLY SENIOR COMPANY SECRETARY

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. Wendy 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.



## 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 is completing her Certificate in Governance Practice and shares the role of Company Secretary with Wendy Reilly, who is currently mentoring her. 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.



## SARAH STODDART

MEMBER OF THE GOVERNANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Sarah Stoddart, an experienced legal practitioner who practises primarily in commercial law and employment law, particularly for clients in the health industry. She is the Principal Lawyer at 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.

## COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SECTOR ADVOCACY

QAMH will continue to influence decision makers and advocate on behalf of its members and the community mental health sector.

QAMH will be the first point of contact for advice on community mental health sector issues in Queensland.



## SUSTAINABLE PEAK BODY

As the leading peak body in the community mental health sector, QAMH will continue to grow its membership and services through diversifying funding and collaboration with like-minded organisations.



# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1 JULY 2016 TO 30 JUNE 2017





# OUR MEMBERS



“It is very comforting to see that someone is pushing for the sort of changes that will make a difference. In this rapidly evolving world, we need clear leadership to ensure providers adapt, and adapt quickly.” Darrell Price, National Head of Health and Aged Care for Grant Thornton and President at Stepping Stone Clubhouse.

## SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS

As one of QAMH's strategic priorities in the 2016-17 year, developing QAMH's membership base and enhancing our value proposition was a strong focus of our work.

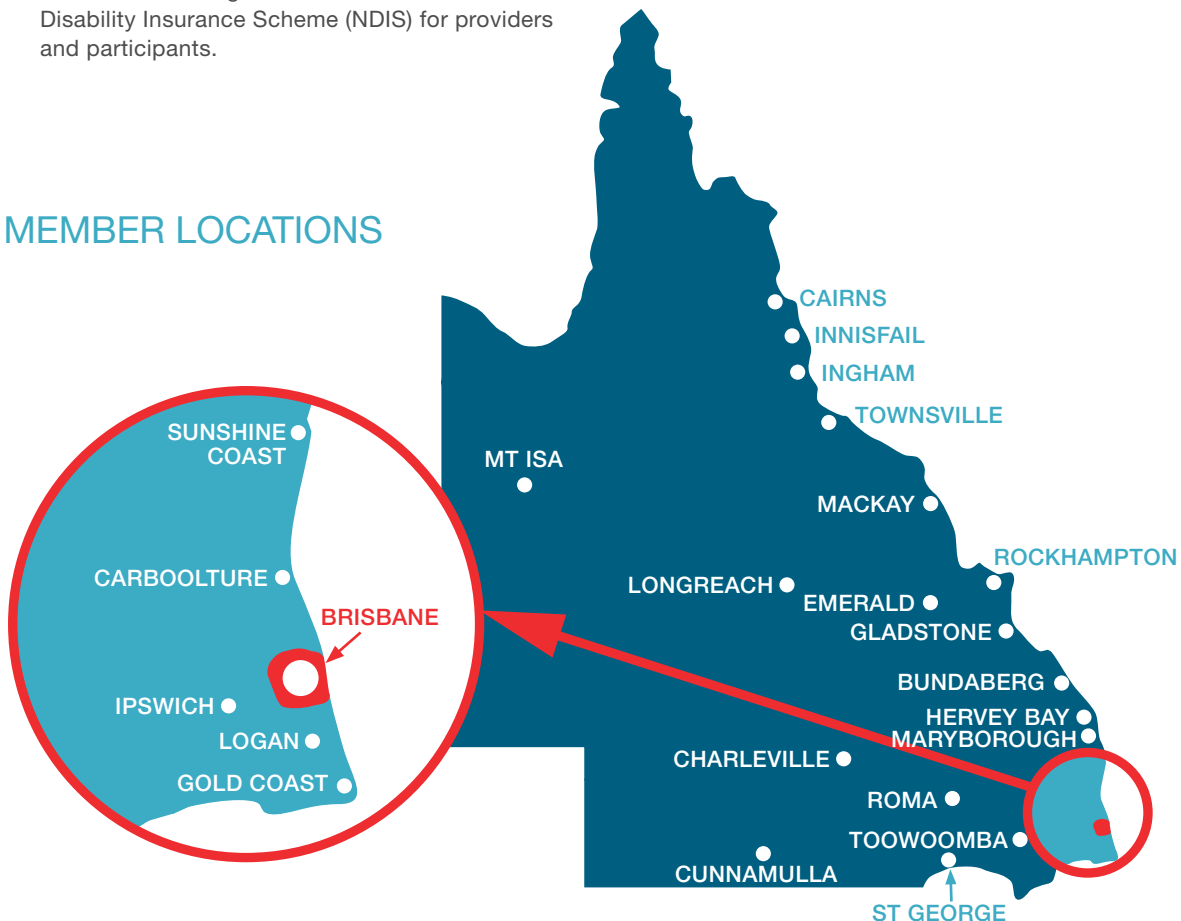
Engaging with members and understanding their work enables us to represent and advocate for them on the issues specific to the sector. This year, our relationship with members particularly informed our advocacy regarding:

- Queensland's Community Managed Mental Health and Housing and Support Program funding.
- Issues surrounding the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) for providers and participants.

As the NDIS influences our members and the broader mental health community we directed much attention to support them through:

- Sharing information and experiences from around the country.
- Communicating challenges and learnings from other implementation sites, particularly in Queensland.
- Building the capacity of organisations to support the transition.
- Engaging in NDIS-specific advocacy at a state and national level.

## MEMBER LOCATIONS



## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

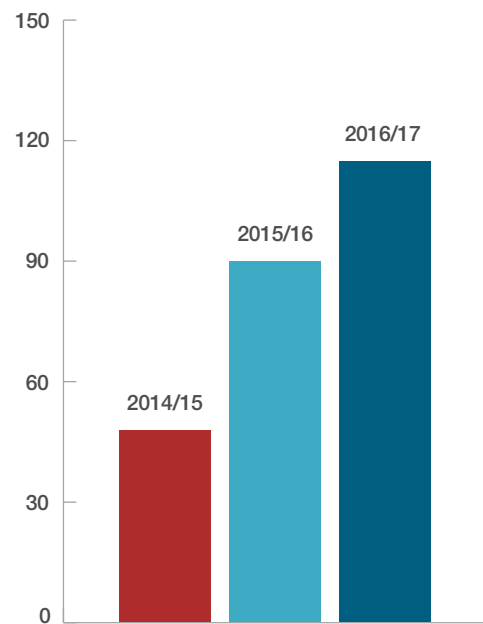
As at 30 June 2017, QAMH represented over 112 organisations in the Queensland community mental health sector. Through QAMH, members have access to resources that strengthen their organisations, a platform to connect with colleagues, and create a solid evidence base for community mental health interventions.

Your support has enabled QAMH to deliver some positive outcomes for the mental health sector in terms of advocacy, influence, representation and sector development.

Your membership with QAMH includes a range of benefits as part of our commitment:

- representation and advocacy
- opportunity to influence Queensland's community mental health landscape
- strategic support
- delivery of latest and most relevant information
- training, forums and development opportunities
- invitations to member only events.

## MEMBERSHIP GROWTH



“This year we welcomed many new members and the return of several lapsed members. Members are our foundation and we express our gratitude and appreciation to our new, returned and continuing members for their sustained commitment and support. We look forward to supporting, advocating for and representing you in the coming years”

Kris Trott, CEO

QAMH would like to acknowledge our partnership with our Associate Industry Members. We are proud of their contribution to the community mental health sector in the work that they do.



# REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT



“QAMH’s Regional Engagement Coordinator has been invaluable to the Darling Downs Mental Health Community Collaborative. QAMH’s guidance, information-sharing, support and help with strategic planning has helped strengthened the voice of the mental health sector in our region.” Chair, Darling Downs Mental Health Community Collaborative

QAMH focused strongly on developing our engagement with community mental health organisations outside of the South-East Queensland corner in accordance with our strategic priority to ‘create new, and further enhance, existing networks that ensure strong engagement with all stakeholders.’

We increased our face-to-face engagement with regional members and appointed a Regional Engagement Coordinator.

In the 2016-17 financial year, 11 regional networks were supported through QAMH’s attendance at the following meetings, forums and committees:

BUNDABERG	All Abilities Alliance (formerly Bundaberg Regional Mental Health Alliance)
CAIRNS	Far North Queensland Mental Health Alliance
CENTRAL QLD	Rockhampton Mental aHealth Strategic Collaborative
GAYNDAH	North Burnett Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs (MHAOD) Hub
IPSWICH	West Moreton Mental Health Collaborative Network
MACKAY	Mackay Regional Mental Health Network
MT ISA	North West Queensland Mental Health Network
ROCKHAMPTON	Rockhampton Mental Health Stakeholder Group
TABLELANDS	Tablelands Mental Health Alliance
TOOWOOMBA	Darling Downs Mental Health Community Collaborative
TOWNSVILLE	North Queensland Alliance for Mental Health

These activities increased our understanding and awareness of issues specific to the regions. In turn, regional networks received information, and were made aware of, opportunities specific to them and the community they support, including:

- grants and tenders
- projects and initiatives
- updates on government inquiries
- forum and committee positions
- relevant support networks
- activities and events
- learnings from QAMH’s work with its members and the community mental health sector

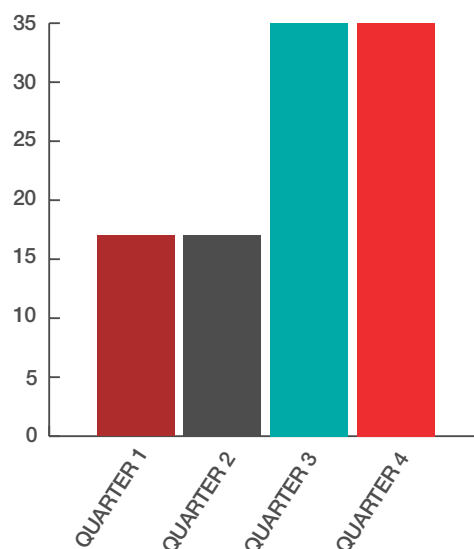
The Regional Engagement Coordinator also facilitated inter-organisational partnerships and collaborations by introducing and connecting people and organisations together.

This new direction created a conduit for information flowing both into, and out of, Queensland’s regions which informed our advocacy at a state and national level.

“The Regional Engagement Coordinator role is an essential link between local Far North Queensland (FNQ) Mental Health Alliance members and QAMH. It helps us maintain a state-wide connection, and keeps a state and national focus, vision and voice. This role demonstrates the commitment of QAMH to its members across Queensland and the continual development of the Community Mental Health Alliances across the State.” Chair, FNQ Mental Health Alliance



REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS BY QUARTER



“We sincerely appreciate the assistance QAMH’s Regional Engagement Coordinator has provided the Tablelands Mental Health Alliance Group this year. The information shared and the organisation of some guest speakers for our meetings has been so valuable, and QAMH’s support is important to the communities up here.

We look forward to continuing to work with you in the new year.”

Chair, Tablelands Mental Health Alliance Group





# PROJECTS



## STRETCH2ENGAGE

The final report for Best Practice Principles for Consumer, Family and Carer Engagement, commonly known as the Stretch2Engage Project, was delivered to the Queensland Mental Health Commission on 16 September 2016.

The Stretch2Engage Project was the first of its kind to bring together community mental health and alcohol and other drug sectors and was a partnership between the QAMH, Queensland Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies (QNADA) and enLightened Consultants. The project involved engagement and consultation with around 250 people including people who access services, their friends, carers and families as well as service providers and others.

Its purpose was to develop a contemporary set of best practice principles that underpin great service engagement activities for service improvement in Queensland's mental health, alcohol and other drug services. The project is funded by the Queensland Mental Health Commission as part of its commitment to the Queensland Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Strategic Plan 2014-2019.



## PEER-LED NDIS ENGAGEMENT SUPPORT ACTIVITY ON PALM ISLAND

Mental Health Australia funded QAMH to work in partnership with SOLAS, one of our members in Townsville, to carry out peer-led, NDIS support activities in the Palm Island community. The purpose of these activities was to build the capacity of people with mental health issues and their families on Palm Island to engage with the NDIS.

The project facilitated candid discussions about the best way to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with psychosocial disability and their carers living in Palm Island to engage with the NDIS. Discussions were held to identify what will work for individuals and the community, and the issues and/or challenges specific to the community that need to be addressed.

In October 2016, an evaluation report was produced, capturing the key learnings and understandings about the community and why engagement with the NDIS on Palm Island to date has been low. Based on these learnings, recommendations were made to facilitate community engagement with future NDIS engagement activities by considering the context of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

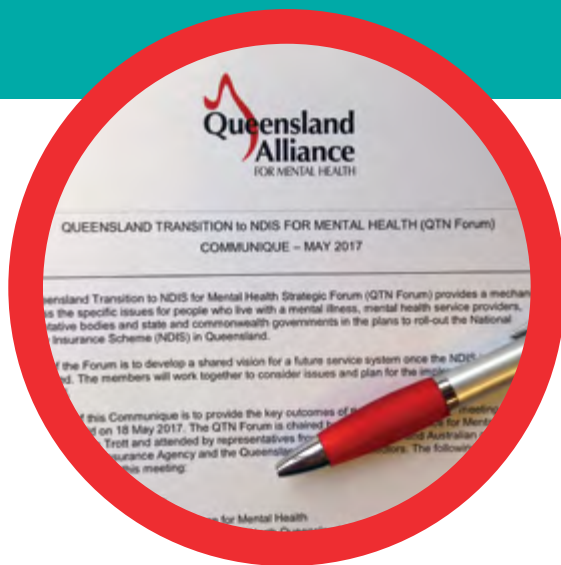
## GREATER METRO SOUTH JOINT MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATIVE REVIEW

A review of the Greater South Joint Mental Health Collaborative (GSJMHC) was finalised on 30 August 2016 on behalf of the Benevolent Society and Brisbane South Primary Health Network. This report brought together individual interviews with stakeholders, a review of key factors for success from other collaboratives as well as recommendations for the Collaborative moving forward. The aim of the review was to better understand the impact of the Collaborative and identify potential areas for improvement.

# TRANSITIONING TO THE NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (NDIS)

While the NDIS offers opportunities to increase support and improve outcomes for people with disability, there are significant challenges that must first be addressed. It remains critical that service providers are positioned to provide support and aid to people with psychosocial disabilities to facilitate their journey to recovery.

QAMH is involved with forums, committees and advisory groups that advise and guide policy-makers with regards to the NDIS. Information our members provide is used to inform the discussions held in these groups, promoting positive solutions and outcomes for the community mental health sector.



## QUEENSLAND TRANSITION TO NDIS FOR MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGIC FORUM (QTN FORUM)

“The QTN Forum is a unique forum across the country and is a good collaborative environment, where everyone is working jointly to try and find the best solution to challenges as they emerge.” Eddie Bartnik, National Disability Insurance Agency

Kris Trott, CEO continues to Chair the QTN Forum; a strategic forum established in 2015 that facilitates discussions regarding issues specific to mental health service providers in the roll-out of the NDIS in Queensland.

It brings together representatives from national mental health bodies, Federal and State Governments, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and Queensland service providers. Together, they focus on finding solutions and outcomes to the challenges arising from fitting psychosocial disability into a Scheme designed for, and focussed on the permanent nature of physical disabilities.

In May 2017, QAMH were pleased to invite our members to a special QTN Forum that included a presentation by Andrew Wallace MP, Member for Fisher and Member of the Joint Standing Committee for the Inquiry into the provision of services under the NDIS for people with psychosocial disabilities related to a mental health condition.

The QTN Forum gained momentum throughout 2016 and 2017, with feedback demonstrating people found it to be an excellent forum for transitioning to the NDIS in the country.



## QUEENSLAND NDIS TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP (QTAG)

Together with the National Disability Insurance Agency and the Queensland Government, QAMH has continued to sit on the Queensland Transition Advisory Group (QTAG) throughout 2016-17, chaired by Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland, the Honourable Coralee O'Rourke MP.

The Group identifies elements of the NDIS transition that are working, along with those that are not. Members share data and consider feedback from service providers around issues regarding, for example:

- pricing
- the NDIS portal
- access experiences for communities more at risk of lower engagement with this NDIS, for example, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- how the NDIS interfaces with other services such as health, housing, employment, training and education.



## WORKABILITY QUEENSLAND STATE ADVISORY GROUP

In 2016-17, Kris Trott, CEO continued to sit on the WorkAbility Queensland State Advisory Group through her position as an influential stakeholder in the sector.

The group provides a strategic approach to addressing workforce challenges under the NDIS, including workforce supply and demand, casualisation, training and skill-development. It works with the sector, government and the NDIA to identify strategies to equip service providers with the capacity and capability to respond to, and sustain a workforce that meets changing demands arising from the NDIS both now and in the future.

## WORKABILITY QUEENSLAND PROJECT TEAM

QAMH is involved with the WorkAbility Project team, comprised of Regional Coordinators in the NDIS roll-out areas who:

- Provide local level stakeholder engagement and coordination
- Develop new relationships to support new worker entry
- Provide new insights, ideas, ways of understanding and solving local problems and understanding where opportunities lie at a local level
- Establish local working groups.

Their role is to form a regional workforce profile, a workforce action plan and implement actions. They support people to be trained, link up employers and support collaboration.



# COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA



## AMANDA BRESNAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In August 2016, the Coalition welcomed the appointment of Amanda Bresnan as CMHA's inaugural Executive Director. Amanda has consistently demonstrated her business acumen, expertise and efficiency through her directorship. She is constantly engaging with federal ministers and sitting on national committees representing the community mental health sector, and QAMH commends her for performance in this challenging role.

## THE ROLE OF CMHA

Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) is a coalition of the eight state and territory peak community managed mental health organisations in Australia that contribute their time and resources to provide leadership and direction to promote the importance and benefits of community mental health and recovery services across Australia.

CMHA actively advocates for, represents and engages in activities to develop the capability of the community managed mental health sector. Through QAMH's partnership with CMHA, we provide a united voice for our members at the local, state and national level. We work closely with CMHA in developing submissions, publications and policy documents.

Over the 2016-17 year, CMHA developed a position statement on the NDIS and Psychosocial Disability, in addition to 10 submissions regarding the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and mental health in Australia.

## POLICIES & SUBMISSIONS

### NDIS

1. Australian National Audit Office – Decision-making controls for sustainability – NDIS access
2. Joint Standing Committee Inquiry on the NDIS – The provision of services under the NDIS for people with psychosocial disabilities related to a mental health condition
3. National Disability Insurance Agency Price Controls Review – Consultation on NDIS pricing arrangements discussion paper
4. National Disability Insurance Scheme – Code of Conduct
5. Productivity Commission Issues Paper – National Disability Insurance Scheme Costs
6. Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee Inquiry on the NDIS Savings Fund Special Account Bill 2016

### MENTAL HEALTH

7. 2017-18 Federal pre-budget submission
8. Fifth National Mental Health Plan
9. Productivity Commission Inquiry – Introducing competition and informed user choice into human services: identifying sectors for reform – Preliminary findings report
10. Productivity Commission Inquiry – Introducing competition and informed user choice into human services: identifying sectors for reform – Study report.

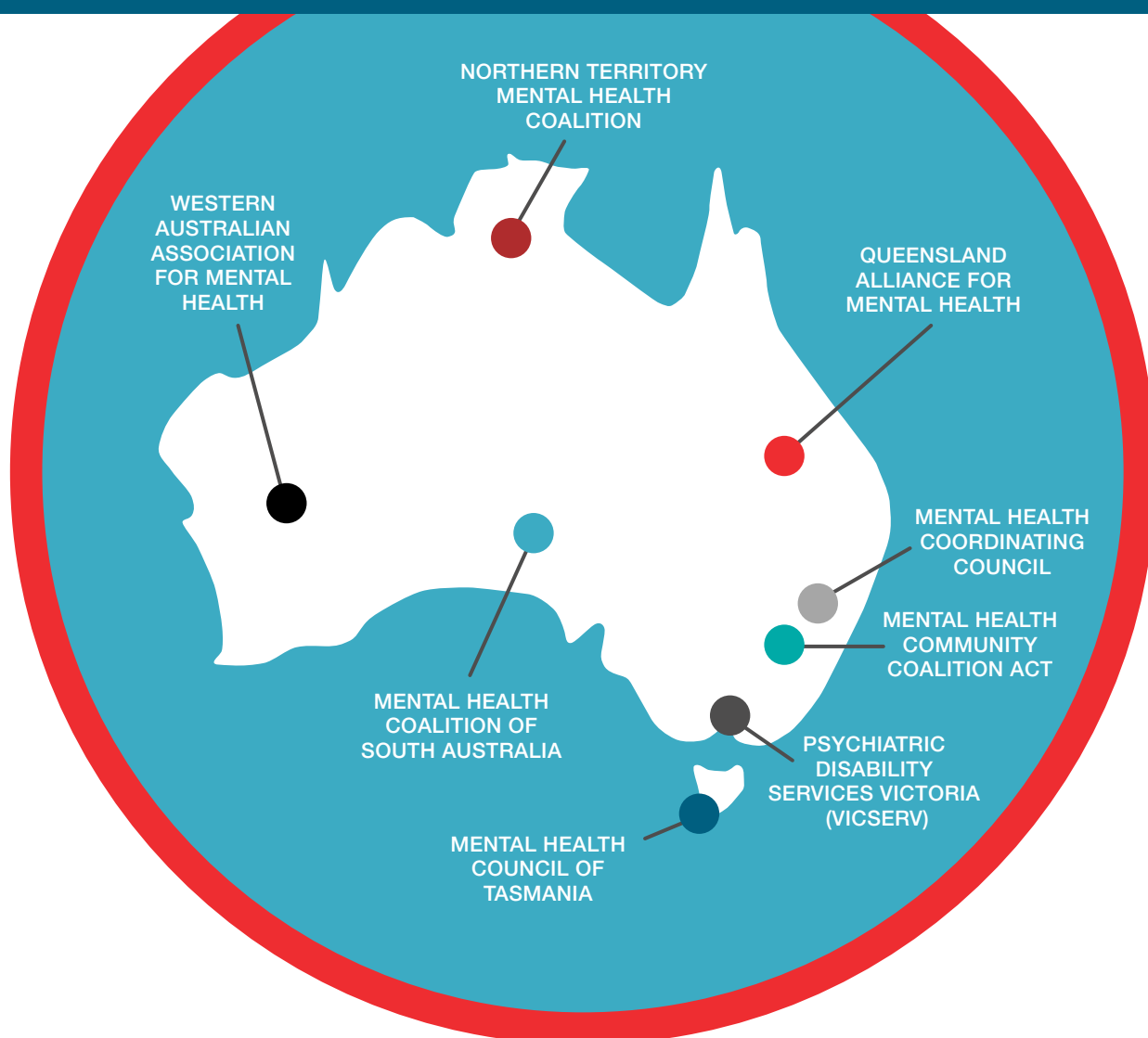


## NEWPARADIGM

Community Mental Health Australia publishes newparadigm, the Australian Journal on Psychosocial Rehabilitation, three times a year. This journal exists to encourage discussion and information sharing on material relevant to mental health such as innovative service programs, new research and current thinking on policy and service provision.

In the Winter 2017 issue of the journal, QAMH co-authored a paper discussing the barriers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to engaging with the NDIS, entitled 'Engaging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the Proper Way'.

QAMH appreciates the relationships we have with our sister peak bodies across Australia.







# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



“I just wanted to formally acknowledge the work of Queensland Alliance in supporting impacted NGO’s in securing replacement funding following the cuts to the NPA funding from the Commonwealth. Obviously, your role is to support your member organisations but the real win is for the consumers and families that would have been impacted by the loss of support.” Tanya Miller, National Manager Services, Neami National

One of our most important pieces of work this year followed the release of the 2016 Federal Budget.

Funding for the Housing and Support Program (HASP), Personalised Support Services (PSS) and Transitional Recovery Services (TRS) were to cease after the National Partnership Agreement expired in June 2016. Without this continuity of services, people with existing severe and complex mental health needs would be significantly impacted.

The next few weeks were an intense period of activity as we worked very closely with each of our HASP-funded members. We advocated for our members and the community mental health sector, including writing to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, the Honourable Cameron Dick MP to urge him to take action about this very serious issue.

As a result, Minister Dick called a round table with QAMH and all affected HASP organisations, where he announced that the state government would continue supporting these clients.

QAMH congratulates the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, the Honourable Cameron Dick MP for this excellent outcome.

## QAMH MEETS WITH THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSIONER TO DISCUSS DRAFT POSITION PAPER

In June 2016, QAMH was approached by the Productivity Commission to seek out our members’ thoughts on its draft National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Costs paper. As a result, QAMH’s Engagement & Partnerships Manager, Sue Pope and CEO, Kris Trott met with the Productivity Commissioner, Angela MacRae and Senior Researcher, Elise Whalan.

They were able to have a frank conversation with the Commissioner with timely information at a local level to support some of the recommendations and findings, and congratulating her on identifying the issues and the factual nature of the draft paper.

Through Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA), QAMH made a submission in response to the draft position paper. See the submission at <http://cmha.org.au/publications/#Submissions>



## MAY SERIES OF EVENTS



“For me, the two-day conference, amongst other things, really does demonstrate the need and value of strong peaks to lead the conversation and provide guidance and transition information.” Suzy Berry, General Manager - Service Delivery, selectability

In May 2017, QAMH hosted a two-day series of events, including opening up the Queensland Transition to NDIS for Mental Health Strategic Forum (QTN Forum) to QAMH members for the first time. At the QTN Forum, we were honoured to host presenters which included members of the State Government and key influencers. Our members had the opportunity to engage in a robust conversation and the room was focussed and passionate. QAMH thanks Suicide Prevention Australia for hosting its Suicide Prevention

Consultation Workshop after the QTN Forum to discuss the proposed Strategic Framework for Suicide Prevention, and Pitcher Partners for sponsoring our Mindful Networking session, closing off the first day. And because the NDIS is not the only change occurring in the sector, we followed our Annual Alliance Meeting on May 19 with a members-only session entitled ‘Mental Health Reforms Let’s NOT Talk About the NDIS’ where we discussed community mental health in Queensland with presenters from Queensland Health.





## PARLIAMENTARY ADVOCACY DAY

Mental Health Australia's Parliamentary Advocacy Day was an exciting day for the sector as Prime Minister, the Honourable Malcolm Turnbull MP (LNP), Minister for Health, the Honourable Greg Hunt MP (LNP), Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Bill Shorten MP (ALP) and Shadow Minister for Ageing and Mental Health, the Honourable Julie Collins MP (ALP), came together to discuss pressing issues facing the sector today.

QAMH CEO, Kris Trott represented our members as she joined over 80 passionate representatives from 50 organisations in the mental health sector at the event as they heard these politicians make a bipartisan commitment to tackle the biggest issues facing the sector and Minister Hunt named mental health as one of the four "pillars" of his National Health Plan.

## NDIS AND MENTAL HEALTH: A QUEENSLAND SNAPSHOT

QAMH CEO Kris Trott and Mental Illness Fellowship of North Queensland CEO Jeremy Audas' article entitled NDIS and Mental Health: A Queensland Snapshot was published by Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association's December 2016 issue of the Health Advocate.

In this article, Kris and Jeremy argued that the NDIS was not originally designed to meet the needs people who experience mental health issues, their family and carers, and discuss the issues that are now arising as a result. They further discussed the issues service providers are experiencing as they enter into a service-focussed delivery model.

Visit <http://ahha.asn.au/publication/health-advocate/health-advocate-december-2016> to read the article.

"Just read the AHHA article and wanted to say well done. It's really good with a clear articulation of the issues." Jenna Bateman, Chief Executive Officer, Mental Health Coordinating Council.





# FINANCIAL REPORT



## STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Events and operating	6,842	36,634
Grants received	1,015,487	1,426,856
Interest received	19,815	21,317
Member subscriptions	79,851	57,656
Other income	705	2,274
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,122,700</b>	<b>1,544,737</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Advertising	15,867	40,887
Computer, telephone and internet	22,283	55,716
Consulting and professional fees	141,409	416,908
Depreciation	-	15,734
Employee benefits expense	671,593	542,833
Equipment	6,864	-
Insurance	5,522	3,999
Membership fees paid	11,252	6,482
Planning and capacity building	19,672	178,788
Printing and stationery	4,509	6,539
Project expenses	13,536	-
Rental Outgoings	59,271	42,224
Sundry expenses	28,057	23,854
Training	2,437	2,046
Travel and accommodation	37,314	49,288
Meetings expenses	5,764	5,663
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,045,350</b>	<b>1,390,961</b>
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>77,350</b>	<b>153,776</b>



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 30 JUNE 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,305,950	1,774,639
Trade and other receivables	73,080	88,493
Other assets	5,450	343
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>1,384,480</b>	<b>1,863,475</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	-	-
Intangible assets	-	-
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,384,480</b>	<b>1,863,475</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	82,100	218,171
Employee benefits	35,238	38,005
Other financial liabilities	694,657	1,112,164
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>811,995</b>	<b>1,368,340</b>
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>811,995</b>	<b>1,368,340</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>572,485</b>	<b>495,135</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Retained earnings	572,485	495,135
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>572,485</b>	<b>495,135</b>



07 3252 9411



admin@qamh.org.au



433 Logan Road  
Stones Corner QLD 4120



www.qamh.org.au

ABN: 23 216 177 453