

Response to Open Letter on ALIVE



Wednesday, 7 April 2021

ALIVE – National Centre for Mental Health Research Translation

Over the next five years, the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) will support the first Australian national research translation centre to implement mental health care at scale in primary care and community settings. The centre will also co-design an academy of lived experience to support lived-experience research career pathways and research. A lived experience working group will lead the establishment of the academy.

The centre will provide the infrastructure, networks, and strategies for moving pockets of innovation in research, and models of care that have made a difference to people's health and wellbeing, into services. It will reach more people in the community, in the places where they live and work, as well as providing a bridge between primary care, community and the whole system.

The centre brings together researchers, health professionals and those with lived experience of mental ill-health and those who have caring roles to translate high-quality research into effective health policy practice and healthcare improvements. It will also grow and develop the next generation of mental health researchers in Australia.

The centre's definition of lived experience is necessarily broad and speaks to many experiences across primary and community care and across areas of prevention and priority populations.

As such, the centre is actively seeking input from a diverse range of individuals and professionals, including those from government bodies, charities, community-based organisations, and the lived-experience workforce, and will continue to do so. Early participation in the planning phases by the lived experience community is strongly desired and encouraged, and the centre will be as inclusive and transparent as possible.

The centre will operate with an independent governance board chaired by University of Melbourne Professor Allan Fels and Flinders University Professor Sharon Lawn.

An intersectoral policy and practice committee will be co-chaired by University of Queensland Professor Cameron Parsell and Mental Health Australia Policy and Research Director Mr Harry Lovelock to support translational work. The centre will foster national and international collaborations through its International Scientific Advisory Committee. Additional representation from lived-experience leaders will be invited at all committee and governance levels.

Participating universities include Curtin University, La Trobe University, Monash University, University of Western Australia, Griffith University, University of Adelaide, University of Tasmania, University of New South Wales, University of Newcastle, University of Queensland, University of Sunshine Coast, Swinburne University, James Cook University and University of Melbourne as the lead and administering institution.

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More info and feedback contact details:

<https://medicine.unimelb.edu.au/research-groups/general-practice-research/mental-health-program/alive-centre>