

**Mental Health  
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**Working together. Working better.**

AHHA Mental Health Network

28 June 2017

Chris Gibbs, CEO MHPN

**“Working together. Working better.”**

Supported by The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Australian Psychological Society, the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses and The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists

## Purpose

- Promoting interdisciplinary practice to practitioners working in primary mental health in Australia

## Policy Context

- Better Access
- National mental health reform

## Investment

- A national platform
  - Local practitioner networks
  - Online professional development (webinars)

# MHPN – National platform, local activity Some facts



## Networks

- 2015/16 - 380 practitioner networks across Australia
  - Nearly 10,000 practitioner participants
  - 580 in WA
- 2010/17 - 100,000 meeting attendances

## Webinars

- 2015/16 - 6,975 participants x 8 webinars
  - 48,000 downloads

40,000+ practitioners on database, 3,500+ GPs  
2015/16 – 59,000 hours of interdisciplinary  
professional development

# MHPN – Networks

## Key factors



- Light touch, self directed
- CPD
- Critical role of RANZCP, RACGP, APS, ACMHN and AASW, OT Australia and other partner organisations
- Public/Private
- 40% of networks outside metropolitan Australia
- Voluntary
- Evidence

## Who uses it?

- 40,000+ practitioner database including 3,300 GPs
- Department of Veterans' Affairs
- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Sexual Abuse
- NSW Health, WorkSafe Australia
- Partnerships: Diabetes Australia, LGBTI Alliance, headspace, NACCHO
- PHNs

# MHPN – a unique national platform



## Can be seen through the lens of

- Interdisciplinary practice
- Professional development
- Workforce
- Primary mental health

# MHPN & Primary Health Networks



## What do we share?

- Primary mental health practitioner audience
- Mental health reform agenda – eg stepped care, suicide prevention, aged mental health
- Professional development for health workforce
- Integrated care

PHN huge agenda, MHPN dealing with 31 PHNs

# MHPN & Primary Health Networks



## Next Steps:

- **What can MHPN do to help PHNs meet their objectives?**
- **What can PHNs do to help MHPN promote interdisciplinary practice to primary mental practitioners?**



# THANK YOU

To learn more about MHPN visit [www.mhpn.org.au](http://www.mhpn.org.au)