

This fact sheet describes the support that is available to help establish and sustain MHPN networks across Australia.

MHPN networks

MHPN works with practitioners to establish and support interdisciplinary mental health networks across metropolitan, rural, regional and remote Australia.

These locally-driven networks aim to improve consumer outcomes by promoting collaboration between people working in primary mental health care.

To be supported by the MHPN program, networks must have a mental health focus and aim to:

- > include three or more members from relevant disciplines, including a General Practitioner (GP)
- > meet on a regular basis, a minimum of four times per year.

MHPN support

MHPN provides networks with:

- > financial support, administrative support, resources and tools.

Financial support

Networks are required to meet four times per financial year, with the expectation that funding is generally allocated evenly across each meeting.

From 1 January 2019, the following financial support will be available to networks:

For networks located in RA 1 and RA 2

Fewer than 15 attendees	\$100 per meeting, up to 4 meetings per financial year
Between 15 – 24 attendees	\$175 per meeting, up to 4 meetings per financial year
Between 25 – 34 attendees	\$250 per meeting, up to 4 meetings per financial year
Between 35 or more	\$300 per meeting, up to 4 meetings per financial year

Note: the above funding is exclusive of GST.

For networks located in RA3, RA 4 and RA 5

Fewer than 15 attendees	\$175 per meeting, up to 4 meetings per financial year
Between 15 – 34 attendees	\$250 per meeting, up to 4 meetings per financial year
Between 35 or more	\$300 per meeting, up to 4 meetings per financial year

Note: the above funding is exclusive of GST.

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MHPN network support

What if my network meets more than four times a year?

MHPN will support networks to meet more than four times per year, however, the available financial support will remain as outlined above.

For example if a network meets six times per year the funding for four meetings will need to be spread across six.

What if my network wants to allocate its grant differently?

MHPN understands that some networks may want to spread their annual funding in a slightly different way, for example, to allow for payment to a particular guest speaker at a meeting.

If this applies to your network, please contact your Project Officer to discuss before making any arrangements.

Guest speaker funding

MHPN provides funding to help networks secure a guest speaker. There are two types of funding available.

Psychiatrist guest speaker funding initiative

Your Project Officer will work with you to secure a psychiatrist to present at your network meeting.

Each network is eligible to receive funding to pay for one psychiatrist guest speaker each financial year. The following applies to psychiatrist guest speakers:

- All guest speakers can be paid \$300 +GST for their time.
- The payment will **not** be deducted from the network's budget.
- Networks can access this funding once per financial year. Networks that used the initiative between 2018-19 financial year, can use it again in the 2019-20 financial year.
- Additional funding from this initiative can't be transferred to support other networking activity.
- This initiative is intended for face-to-face presentations. If you know a psychiatrist who you would like to invite, provide their details or make initial contact.

Additional guest speaker funding

Networks who hold four or more meetings in the 2018-19 financial year will be eligible to apply to MHPN to receive an additional allowance of \$125 (ex GST) to pay for a guest speaker (doesn't have to be a psychiatrist) to present at a meeting in the 2019-20 year. Please note, MHPN will need to approve the guest speaker before payment can be made.

What if my network wants to spend more money than MHPN can provide?

A number of networks have been in a situation where the group has decided to perhaps meet more often, share a meal or undertake training together that has cost more than the network's budget. In these situations, some networks have asked members to make a co-payment towards covering expenses. There are also other ways to try to stretch your network's budget – contact your Project Officer if you'd like to explore some ideas.

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Administrative support

MHPN's team of project officers can help with practical administration tasks, as well as provide guidance and support to the network's coordinator.

Administration support includes undertaking tasks like:

- > sending meeting invitations
- > collating meeting RSVPs
- > providing electronic Certificates of Attendance to meeting attendees after the meeting
- > emailing a PDF of a Member Directory to network members after the meeting.

Guidance and support might include:

- > providing advice on planning future meetings, guest speakers and succession planning for coordinators as required
- > suggestions and support to help deal with specific challenges that affect the network's ability to function successfully.

Resources and tools

MHPN has developed tools and resources that can help grow and develop networks.

These generally fall into the categories of facilitating meetings and providing ideas for content at network meetings.

Tools to help facilitate the network:

- > to be sustainable
- > a planning tool to help coordinate meeting dates and topics for discussion
- > survey tools to help engage network members in the planning process
- > survey tools to gather network member feedback.

Meeting content resources:

- > a range of MHPN webinar recordings
- > a suite of case studies
- > resources brokered through our partner organisations.

Did you know . . .

MHPN also provides mental health practitioners with free professional development through its webinar series.

Visit www.mhpn.org.au to learn more.

About MHPN

A not-for-profit organisation, MHPN is funded by the Commonwealth Government Department of Health.

Its purpose is to support improved consumer outcomes by establishing and sustaining interdisciplinary networks across Australia to enhance collaborative mental health care.

The program currently supports approximately 366 networks Australia wide, 44% of which are located in regional, rural and remote areas. Learn more about MHPN at www.mhpn.org.au.

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