



This fact sheet describes the support available to 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
 - > meet on a regular basis, a minimum of four times per year.

MHPN support

- MHPN provides networks with:
- > financial support
 - > resources and tools
 - > administrative support

Financial Support

Network meeting funding

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

From 1 July 2020, the following financial support will be available to networks:

For networks located in MMM1 - MMM2	Between \$100 - \$300 per meeting (allocation dependant on attendances*), up to 4 meetings per financial year
For networks located in MMM3 - MMM4	\$175 per meeting, up to 4 meetings per financial year
For networks located in MMM5	\$250 per meeting, up to 4 meetings per financial year
For networks located in MMM6 - MMM7	\$300 per meeting, up to 4 meetings per financial year

Note: the above funding is exclusive of GST.

MMM1 – MMM7 stands for [Modified Monash](#) model (MMM). The MMM classifies metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas according to geographical remoteness, as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), and town size. Find out where your network is located [here](#) or speak with your Project Officer.

*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

FACT SHEET

MHPN network
support

We have answered some frequently asked questions (FAQs) about network funding:

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.

When does MHPN's funding conclude?

MHPN has been funded by the Department of Health to continue to support networks until at least 30 June 2022.

What support does MHPN provide to networks?

MHPN provides all networks with administration support, resources and tools, and access to meeting content, through the support of a dedicated Project Officer. Your Project Officer will work with you to identify what support your network requires. MHPN also provides network meeting funding support. This is outlined below.

What if my network wants to distribute its funding allocation 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 additional funding to help networks secure a psychiatrist guest speaker.

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 in the 2019-20 financial year, can use this initiative again in the 2020-21 financial year.
- Additional funding from this initiative can't be transferred to support other networking activity.

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, or share a meal or undertake training together that has cost more than the network's budget. In these situations, these 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.

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.

Resources and tools

Tools to help facilitate the network:

- > state based calendar to identify meeting dates
- > 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.

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
- > collecting 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.

We also provide MHPN coordinators with an exclusive bi-monthly publication called Coordinator Connect, where you can keep up-to-date with network news, top topics at meetings, tips about coordinating a network and upcoming webinar events.

Any questions?

If you have any questions please get in touch, our team of Project Officers are here to help. Email us on networks@mhpn.org.au or call 1800 209 031

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 365 networks Australia wide, 44% of which are located in regional, rural and remote areas. Learn more about MHPN at www.mhpn.org.au.