

MHAQ Launches mental health information line in Queensland

The Mental Health Association QLD (MHAQ) is pleased to announce the launch of the Mental Health Information Line in Queensland, a state-wide initiative offering a much needed service to those people who are unsure where to start for support for mental health related issues.

With over 50 years of continuous operation in Queensland, MHAQ provides quality early prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery mental health services and programs that support the community to make mental health connections, develop mental health literacy and participate in employment as a foundation for recovery.

“The formal launch of the new enhanced **Mental Health Information Line** provides a valuable avenue for people with mental health issues, their family members, friends, carers and health workers to make connections and build stronger support networks. The **Mental Health Information Line** is an incarnation of its information service, which has been operating in Queensland for over 20 years,” said Dr Dennis Young, Executive Director, MHAQ.

Mental health issues are common in all communities, affecting millions of Australians every day. According to 2007 National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing by Australian Bureau of Statistics, one in five Australians aged 16-85 years had a mental disorder and almost one in two (or 7.3 million people) has experienced a mental disorder at some point in their lives. In Australia, the cost of mental health issues has been estimated at \$20 billion, and includes the cost of lost productivity and labour force participation.

It is important to note that as high as 80% of people who have a dependence on drugs and alcohol also suffer with a mental health issue. The **Mental Health Information Line** can also direct enquirers to relevant support services in this area.

“The **Mental Health Information Line** utilises Queensland’s most comprehensive services directory developed by the

organisation over the past 10 years in assisting enquirers to find out about local service providers, support groups, community programs and many more mental health related services across Queensland,” Dr Young said.

“The professionally trained team of Community Relations and Information Consultants at MHAQ’s mhConnect Division strive to raise awareness of mental illness, and promote positive mental health in the community through provision of information and health promotion programs,” Dr Young said. “In addition to providing information via telephone, the **Mental Health Information Line** utilises email and will soon be able to direct enquiries to the online, searchable option to ensure optimal accessibility for the entire Queensland community,” he added.

With the immense opportunities created by the merger of MHAQ with DRUG ARM and the strong national focus on the importance of maintaining good mental health and supporting those among us living with mental illness, MHAQ looks forward to continuing to make a significant contribution to the mental health sector in the years ahead.

For more information about MHAQ and its services visit www.mentalhealth.org.au.

Mental Health Information Line
Phone: 1300 729 686
Email: info@mentalhealth.org.au



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Injune

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Tickets sold after April 20 to April 27 \$60 pp.

May 1 Meet & Greet 2pm.

May 2 Unmarked Graves Memorial.

May 3 Art Show

May 4 'Country & Characters' Coat Mine Signage Dedication. Meals & Music. Injune Bowls Club.

Music in the Amphitheatre. Walkups from 2pm. Guest Artists 6pm onwards.

5 May Poets Breakfast

6 May Wallaroo Tour.

7 May Lanesome Plane Crash Memorial Plaque.

MUSIC in the AMPHITHEATRE

Artists - Ged & Trudy Hintz, Chris Pritchard, Chester Wilson;
MC & Poets Breakfast Host - Gary Fogarty

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