Illustrations by women consumers Listening Events: Nowhere to be Safe 2008

ABN: 39 597 342 174

CONTACT US

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Our mission

Improving the mental health & wellbeing of women

Our vision

The Network shapes the future of women’s health outcomes through the empowerment of women and by building the capacity of the service system.

Our objectives

The Women’s Mental Health Network Victoria (the Network) was established in 1988 and is a unique organisation where women with a lived experience of mental illness, women carers and professionals work together. It has been a great promoter of women’s mental health and our strength as a charitable organisation is founded on this collaboration, based largely on volunteer support.

The objectives of the Network are:
(a) to provide information about the prevention and management of women’s mental health issues to health professionals, service providers, carers, consumers and the public; and

(b) to promote research into women’s mental health issues; and

(c) to promote opportunities for training and education in women’s mental health issues and women-sensitive practice; and

(d) to develop partnerships with key mental health and women’s organisations to promote responsiveness to women’s mental health needs; and

(e) to create opportunities for women consumers, carers and service providers to work together in addressing mental health issues, and to share their experiences and information; and

(f) to promote systemic change in order to make mental health policies and services more responsive to women’s needs.
MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE

It has been another solid year of promoting women sensitive needs despite the pressures the committee has experienced - without core funding the nature of the work we can undertake remains limited. The Network is, in essence, a volunteer organisation — and will need to continue to expand in membership as well as mobilize volunteers to drive our cause.

As we review funding strategies for the future we have been fortunate to launch our social media platforms with Hannah and Kate’s assistance - a big thanks! We can now energize a wider audience keeping women-sensitive needs in the public arena.

We also acknowledge and thank the staff at drummond street services (dss) where our office is located. We thank our committee member Cheryl Miller-Yell, who has liaised on our behalf as well as taking on the role of Treasurer.

This year we have experienced a disproportionate workload for such a small committee. Special thanks goes to Julie Dempsey and Sandy Jeffs who continue to forge links across the mental health sector and work on the ground conducting much of our stakeholder and outreach activities. Notably Julie has been able to contribute to crucial government committees on our behalf as well as facilitating in our recent training workshops.

We also thank Robyn Minty and Shelley Anderson for conducting the interim consultation on the Service guidelines for gender sensitive safe practice on behalf of the Mental Health Branch, Department of Health & Human Services, late last year.

The consultation included Module Four of the Building gender-sensitive and safe practice training for which the Network holds the license. Julie Dempsey our Consumer Training Facilitator drives the unique perspective required during each workshop discussion, this is a crucial aspect of the Network’s approach.

We are working behind the scenes as a very small team, collaborating with relevant stakeholders as we seek opportunity to champion improved services. With this activity we have experienced growth - 33 new members this year. This increased number compared to previous years is our reminder of the importance of our collective voice for promoting gender sensitive safe services.

Our hope is that a reinvigorated committee with its full suite of functions will continue to ‘run with the baton’ in 2019 and that a mobilized network membership will assist the work at hand.
The committee elected to celebrate our 30th anniversary as a way of reflecting on our strengths and to state our strategic directions as we head into this our fourth decade of collaboration.

Our publication Women’s Safety Matters; 30 years and beyond is our historical documentation and will be a building block for future influence as a statement of our relevance.

Our committee is fully engaged and empowered to always do better. As a result, we have been giving much consideration to the role that the Network can play to ensure its future. We consulted stakeholders as well as our members who all reinforce our relevance in the following core areas:

- Women’s Safety - Secure Women - Only Corridors And Women Sensitive Spaces
- Highlight Women Sensitive Needs For Rural And Regional Areas
- Strengthen Gender Sensitive Training and Curriculum Development For The Health Workforce
- Engage More In Social Media Platforms
- Promote Focus For Women Sensitive Services Nationally

We recognize that the same factors that affect our sustainable funding persist and that this will continue to weigh on our achievements in 2019. However, we are confident we will improve our situation with proactive funding projects, government service funding applications and by leveraging member base for their potential pledge.

We want to thank our members, partners and stakeholders for their continued trust and encouragement in our work. And we want to thank those dedicated volunteers on the ground who with their commitment, resilience and energy have driven change.

After 30 years we are celebrating our achievements and aim to bring vision to a changing landscape. With each new membership we are able to mobilise our forums and vision.

Unfortunately, the journey that started in 1988 is not complete; there is still a great deal of work especially needed to support safety for women in our mental health services.

Our vision thus remains the same - to promote awareness of the issues that impact on women’s mental health, and to support the development of women-sensitive services that recognize women consumers’ lived experience, their potential to be partners in their recovery and their role in advocating for services that are responsive to their needs.

Building in Safer and More Productive Outcomes for Consumers & Mental Health Workers: Key Findings of the Network’s 2016 Hospital Experience Survey
Consultation with MIND Australia for women’s PARC - some progress is being made towards female only accommodation with the announcement of another future women only Prevention & Recovery Care (PARC) situated in the North Western region of Melbourne.

Continuing collaboration with stakeholders, both government and our partners such as the Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council (VMIAC) Consultation Forum: Sexual Safety in psychiatric services in May.

Fostering an ongoing relationship with the BIG Issue women’s soccer group at their north Melbourne base. Julie and Sandy share stories about mental health issues, hospital experiences and the benefits of playing team sports. Organising the BIG Issue women’s soccer event & networking with Forensicare.
HIGHLIGHTS

The Mental Health Complaints Commission had its Inaugural Annual Forum on the topic of Women’s Sexual Safety in Psychiatric Inpatient Units on the 23rd of March 2018.

➢ The Network is extensively quoted in supporting evidence of the dire situation of female patients in mixed-sex psychiatric units described in the Commissioner’s Sexual Safety Project Report: The Right to be Safe; launched at the forum

➢ Julie Dempsey represented the Network and women consumers as a panel member addressing the audience and answering questions on responses to the report’s findings and recommendations and staff/sector roles and perspectives in responding to breaches of sexual safety

COLLABORATION


Participation in the Mental Health Complaints Commission (MHCC) Sexual Safety Project Reference Group formed in 2017- consisting of MHCC staff, consumers, Area Mental Health management and other key stakeholders with an interest in highlighting and addressing sexual safety issues in the mental health sector. One of the main recommendations of the report was establishment and a trial of a Women’s Only Unit.

Contributions at a number of committees including Promoting Human Rights (Chief Psychiatrist project).

Department of Premier and Cabinet Diverse Communities and Intersectionality Working Group - gives mental health expertise and input into the implementation of the Royal Commission into Family Violence recommendations rollout.
A REFLECTION – OUR 30 YEARS

Over its 30-year history, the Network has emphasised all the ways in which women can become aware of and access mental health services that most effectively serve their needs. Through ongoing advocacy for realistic services, staff training with a strong consumer input and presentations at key forums across Victoria, interstate and internationally, it has built a platform that has influenced government and service providers to include gender sensitivity and safety in their treatment programs.

Staff training packages have been rolled out across the state – all with a strong consumer component. A great deal of research and grass roots enquiry has preceded the design of gender sensitivity and safety elements in training programs. Consumer members of the Network have played a major role in talking to the consumers and the staff who will deliver the training.

Our consumer members of the Network have, over time, gained skills in advocacy and public speaking that allows them to reach out to many hundreds of women over short periods of time. Two programs were developed to encourage and equip women consumers to share their stories without undue anxiety.

A training package titled Women Speak Out and a program titled Breaking The Silence planned for rural applications were developed. Women averaged five days of training over five weeks with the aim of providing participants with more assurance in sharing personal information and dealing with the media.

The Network has demonstrated that women telling their own stories in their own words is a powerful catalyst for change.

The Network has been successful at developing funding proposals targeted at the key issues around gender sensitivity and women’s safety, when receiving care in psychiatric inpatient units. We are aiming to concentrate on attracting funding for a Network Chief Executive who can centralise the different activities in which we are involved.

We welcome input from all Network members – they provide a rich source of expertise which can help us to better target our activities to support all women consumers, carers and women interested in seeing the Network prosper.

Jude Stamp
Committee Member and Consumer
Hello, do you have a Big Mac delusion or a Cheeseburger delusion? Is that one voice with grandiose ideas or two voices of persecution? Have you spent all your savings & bought three new Ferraris & a Rolls lately? Are sad one moment & high the next? Are you self-harming or feeling unremitting misery? Then drive thru the fastpsychiatry public ward we’ll have you McDiagnosed, treated, medicated & Msane in two shakes of a pill bottle. McSanity is our business.

Now that you are here terms & conditions apply you can only stay a few days but don’t worry we’ll get you Msane before you can say can I have some compassion with that? & if you have a hint of childhood trauma there’s a guarantee to retraumatise you. By the way, if you are a woman you’ll be stalked, harassed & threatened & put into HD for your own McSafety & don’t stress if the staff think your fears are delusional you are McMad after all. If you are lucky there might be a women’s corridor without men in it in which to feel McSafe. There will be drugs that will fatten you up turn you into a zombie & bring on premature death. We’ll have you out of here in the blink of an eye because someone McMadder will need your bed. You will be so distressed you’ll never want to set foot in a public psych ward again.

But cheer up because we’ll offer you some McTherapy to help you cope with rejection, poverty, isolation & PTSD.

& now for some McTherapy: hello how are the voices today? keep taking the medication we have to finish now credit or savings see you in 6 months.

It’s a McMad world everyone has forms to fill in & boxes to tick I’s to dot & T’s to cross performance requirements to meet risk assessments to make & pressure, pressure, pressure Fastpsychiatry is the name of this game. Ah Msane, we’ve done it again.

A Wild Psychotic Fancy
In my wild psychotic fancy I see women healing with art, music & poetry curative gardens, therapy dogs empathetic peer support soothing sensory rooms no ice-fuelled men wreaking havoc no seclusion rooms no security guards no fishbowl nurses not just medication monitors psychiatrists who heal the soul trauma informed care to restore wounded psyches & Old Father Time has no watch. McMending with the lot & some kindness & sensitivity with that. Call me mad, call me insane slowpsychiatry is the name of this game. ©Sandy Jeffs 2015, 2018
BUILDING CAPACITY - CONSULTATION AND TRAINING

The Office of the Chief Psychiatrist engaged the Women’s Mental Health Network Victoria to deliver a number of Gender Sensitive Safe Practice Nurse Manager Workshops throughout August-December 2017. These were facilitated by trained educators Robyn Minty, Shelley Anderson and consumer training facilitator Julie Dempsey.

Managers and leaders from Inpatient Mental Health Services were asked to come together to examine the Service Guidelines for Gender sensitive safe practice in context with the Promoting Sexual Safety Guidelines. Both these guidelines are currently being updated.

Some key aspects of the consultation were:
- Promoting a holistic approach to wellbeing
- Exploring current practices/issues
- Promoting sexual safety dialogue that informed a Strengthening of the reporting mechanisms

The workshops were state-wide so provided an opportunity to:
- Network with colleagues on shared language and understandings of gender – sensitive and safe practice as relevant to their workplace
- Provide a robust and balanced feedback on both guidelines – application, content gaps, improvements with particular emphasis on the guideline

The consultation led to a rich collection of qualitative data including feedback and recommendations regarding:
- Strengthening and adding to the guidelines
- Seeking clarification for policy to practice alignment
- Strengthening guidelines implementation state-wide to ensure consistent practice
- Enhancing Consumer participation at training as well as local policy level

It was a great to meet these passionate nurse managers. There were robust discussions about the challenges and achievements of their gender sensitive safe practice in the field.

Shelley Anderson
Committee Member and Licensed WMHNV Facilitator
A RURAL PERSPECTIVE

Manorama and I always value our involvement in the WMHNV as a regional voice for women’s mental health.

Over the years, the number of specialised women’s mental health worker positions has reduced significantly, and so the opportunity to network with peers, especially in regional areas, is limited.

Being part of the Network provides our small 1EFT service with support and guidance, as well as opportunities for collaborative work to enhance the mental health and lives of women.

Some of the activities over the last year include:

- Participating as a regional representative of the Network and Bendigo Health, on the Mental Health and Family Violence Project Advisory Group, led by the Office of Chief Psychiatrist. This PAG guided the design of a new service guideline addressing some of the Royal Commission into Family Violence recommendations around family violence and mental health services.
- Providing feedback for the Gender Sensitivity Audit Tool developed by the Network, drawing on information and perspectives provided by the Peer Workers in Bendigo Health Psychiatric Services.
- Organising staff training for carer support services workers in Bendigo and surrounds, on the topic of “Family Violence in a Carer Support Context”.
- Continuing to design and facilitate group programs and workshops for women in the community around various aspects of mental and emotional health and wellbeing.
- Continuing to educate Psychiatric Services staff in gender sensitive practice, to advocate for women’s mental health needs, review and encourage quality improvement, and survey staff, patients and carers around gender sensitivity and safety across Psychiatric Services.

As a project worker in the regional sector of the Strengthening Hospital Responses to Family Violence Project at Bendigo Health, developing a specialised staff training module and Facilitation Guide on “The Unique Complexities of Family Violence in Regional/rural Settings”. Due to the strong intersection of family violence and mental health, the module highlights many of the rural-specific issues, needs, strengths, risk factors, and helpful strategies relevant to women’s mental health in a regional/rural context.

Over the last few years, it has been great to see the growing interest and awareness in gender sensitive and safe practice across mental health services in Victoria, and within Bendigo Health, to be part of the greater integration of these issues in the training of mental health staff, the increased mindfulness of gender sensitive and safe environments and practice, and the innovations such as the Safe Wards program and Strengthening Hospital Responses to Family Violence project.

There is still a long way to go in the journey of empowering women, and advocating for our mental health and wellbeing needs, but there are positive and hopeful signs of progress occurring in many spaces, and the Network plays a significant role in driving this energy and focus.

Happy 30th Anniversary to the Network, from the Women’s Mental Health Service Bendigo Health, which has been a keen participant for the last 14 years!

Bridget Nutting
Committee Member/Bendigo Health
Committee's Report
For the year ended 30 June 2018

Your committee members submit the financial accounts of the WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK VICTORIA for the financial year ended 30 June 2018.

Committee Members
The names of committee members at the date of this report are:

Cheryl Miller-Yell
Shelley Anderson
Julie Dempsey
Jude Stamp
Sandy Jeffs
Robyn Minto
Bridget Nutting
Michelle Swan
Fiona Jessep
Hannah Harbinson
Carol O'Dwyer

Principal Activities
The principal activities of the association during the financial year were: Promotes awareness of women's mental health and the development of services that are safe, effective and respond to the gender needs of women.

Significant Changes
No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result
The deficit from ordinary activities after providing for income tax amounted to

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year ended</th>
<th>Year ended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 June 2018</td>
<td>30 June 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(32,576)</td>
<td>(20,950)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These financial statements are unaudited. They must be read in conjunction with the attached Accountant's Compilation Report and Notes which form part of these financial statements.
WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK VICTORIA  
ABN 39 587 342 174  
Income and Expenditure Statement  
For the year ended 30 June 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants received</td>
<td>1,143</td>
<td>25,810</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations received</td>
<td>1,049</td>
<td>1,331</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership fees</td>
<td>1,095</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>595</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>2,192</td>
<td>28,790</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountancy</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>1,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration costs</td>
<td>56</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising and promotion</td>
<td>86</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad Debts</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank charges</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bookkeeping fees</td>
<td>4,698</td>
<td>614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract payments</td>
<td>5,972</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation - other</td>
<td>671</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment expenses</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>37,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flowers and gifts</td>
<td>149</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lord Mayor's Charitable Trust</td>
<td>352</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workers compensation</td>
<td>199</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting expenses</td>
<td>785</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions</td>
<td>563</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training and conference expenses</td>
<td>10,280</td>
<td>2,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travelling expenses</td>
<td>390</td>
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<tr>
<td>I.T expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing and stationery</td>
<td>1,797</td>
<td>72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>531</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>1,104</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent on land &amp; buildings</td>
<td>2,250</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff amenities</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel, accom &amp; conference</td>
<td>118</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>34,768</td>
<td>49,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before income tax</strong></td>
<td>(32,576)</td>
<td>(20,959)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These financial statements are unaudited. They must be read in conjunction with the attached Accountant's Compilation Report and Notes which form part of these financial statements.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net profit (loss) attributable to the association</strong></td>
<td>(32,576)</td>
<td>(20,950)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total changes in equity of the association</strong></td>
<td>(32,576)</td>
<td>(20,950)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening retained profits</td>
<td>76,613</td>
<td>97,563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net profit (loss) attributable to the association</strong></td>
<td>(32,576)</td>
<td>(20,950)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Closing retained profits</strong></td>
<td>44,037</td>
<td>76,613</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Current Assets

#### Cash Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank Australia #6758 S65</td>
<td>40,428</td>
<td>80,785</td>
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<tr>
<td>Load &amp; Go Visa Card</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>41,128</strong></td>
<td><strong>81,485</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Current Tax Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GST payable control account</td>
<td>3,587</td>
<td>(1,448)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GST Clearing</td>
<td>3,587</td>
<td>(1,448)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>44,715</strong></td>
<td><strong>80,037</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Non-Current Assets

#### Property, Plant and Equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office Furniture &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>3,945</td>
<td>3,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Accumulated Dep’n</td>
<td>(3,946)</td>
<td>(3,946)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>2,238</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Less: Accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>(671)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Non-Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,566</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,566</strong></td>
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</table>

### Total Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>46,281</strong></td>
<td><strong>80,037</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK VICTORIA
ABN 39 597 342 174
Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Current Liabilities**

**Payables**

Unsecured:
- Trade Creditors
  - 2018: 44
  - 2017: 44

**Current Tax Liabilities**

- PAYG Clearing
  - 2018: 1,417
  - 2017: 2,597

**Provisions**

- Superannuation Payable
  - 2018: 230
  - 2017: 230
- Workcover Payable
  - 2018: 553
  - 2017: 553

- Total Current Liabilities
  - 2018: 2,244
  - 2017: 3,424

- Total Liabilities
  - 2018: 2,244
  - 2017: 3,424

- Net Assets
  - 2018: 44,037
  - 2017: 76,613

**Members' Funds**

- Accumulated surplus (deficit)
  - 2018: 44,037
  - 2017: 76,613

- Total Members' Funds
  - 2018: 44,037
  - 2017: 76,613

---

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30 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

1988 Victorian Women and Mental Health Network Collective established
1989 Inaugural Conference ‘Strategies for Change’ funded by Office of Psychiatric Services
1990 High profile Forum with Canadian Activist
1992 Sexual violence & rights and safety Forum
1992 Submission for the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Inquiry concerning the Rights of People with a Mental Illness
1995 Domestic violence and mental illness Forum
1996 Women-only respite programs Forum
2006 Project report Building partnerships between mental health, family violence & sexual assault services - investigated connection between those sectors
2007 Survey and ‘Listening Events’ consultation of women’s experience on safety in hospitals
2008 The gender sensitivity and safety in adult acute inpatient unit’s project
2009 Promoting sexual safety, responding to sexual activity, and managing allegations of sexual assault in adult acute inpatient unit guideline
2009 Chief Psychiatrist Office expert advisory committee
2010 VWMHN Call to Action – The 5 Point Plan State Government Victoria Election Campaign
2010 VWMHN Gender sensitive training programs rolled out statewide
2011 Service guidelines on gender sensitivity & safety. Promotion of a holistic approach to wellbeing advisory committee
2011 The creation of separate areas for women in adult acute psychiatry inpatient units
2012 Lobbying government provision for A$6m to establish gender specific mental health spaces in existing mental health services, including women - only corridors
2012 Commitment by State Government to a women’s only prevention and recovery care centre (Springvale)
2013 Gender Sensitive & Safe Training package developed and launched
2014 Training roll-out to Acute Psychiatric Inpatient Units across Victoria led by the Centre for Psychiatric Nursing Victoria
2014 Licensed by Department of Health for gender sensitive training
2015 Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence Report & Recommendations
2016 Survey a decade on for women’s experience in hospitals
2016 Raising awareness of gender sensitive issues in the Australian context with World Health Organisation
2017 Consultation and training Report DHHS on promoting sexual safety and gender sensitive guidelines statewide
2018 Mental Health Complaints Commission ‘sexual safety’ Forum panel member and subsequent The Right to be Safe Report contributions
2018 Women’s Safety Matters; 30 years and beyond Publication
CONFERENCES & FORUMS

1990 Forum on mental health with Canadian activist Helen Levine
1992 Forum on Sexual Assault
1995 Forum on Domestic Violence and Mental Illness
1996 Forum on women-only respite programs
2007 Listening Events Statewide Forums
2009 VMIAC Conference
2010 Gippsland Mental Health Conference
2010 6th World Conference on the Promotion of Mental Health and Prevention of Mental and Behavioral Disorders Washington USA
2010 Victorian Collaborative Psychiatric Nursing Conference
2011 TheMHS Conference, Mental Health Learning Network
2011 Victorian Collaborative Psychiatric Nursing Conference
2012 TheMHS Conference, Mental Health Learning Network
2012 VicServ Conference
2012 Victorian Collaborative Psychiatric Nursing Conference
2013 Meaning of Life Journeys to Recovery Forum
2013 TheMHS Conference, Mental Health Learning Network
2013 Victorian Collaborative Psychiatric Nursing Conference
2013 7th Australian Women’s Health Conference
2015 Royal Commission into Family Violence Forum
2016 The Alfred & L.A.M.P.s Diversity Conference
2016 Your Hospital Experience: Have Your Say Forum
2017 The Alfred & L.A.M.P.s Diversity Conference

PUBLICATIONS

1998 Speaking Out: Women’s Experiences Of Mental Health Services Publication
2000 Directory of services for women in mental health Publication (collaboration with VIC SERV)
2007 Listening to Women’s Consumers Experience in Mixed Sex Psychiatric Wards
2007 Nowhere to Be Safe
2008 Outrage becomes determination: Advocating to raise awareness of women’s experience in mixed sex psychiatric wards; Health Issues: Journal of Health Issues Centre (Autumn Issue 2008) by Heather Clarke and Julie Dempsey
2009 Victorian Women and Mental Health Network: Increasing Safety and Gender Sensitivity in mixed sex psychiatric units: Gathering Information about clinical mental health service initiatives
2010 Call to Action 2010: A Five Point Plan to Ensure safety for women in acute psychiatric wards
2011 Outrage to Determination. Real Women Right On! VWHMH Action for Change
2013 Building Gender - Sensitive and Safe Practice: Final Project Report
2014 Building Gender - Sensitive Safe Practice - training program
2016 A Story of Madness by Sandy Jeffs; WMMHV entry for The Horne Prize – “Australian life” picture of how it is for women.
2017 Building in Safer and More Productive Outcomes for Consumers and Mental Health Workers: Key Findings of the Network’s 2016 Hospital Experience Survey
2018 Women’s Safety Matters; 30 years and beyond

Outrage to Determination 2011
Author Julie Dempsey
Women and Mental Health
The First Victorian Conference
17th & 18th November ’89
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