

MEDIA RELEASE



Monday, 23 September 2019

Orange Declaration identifies ten solutions for action to improve rural mental health outcomes

Mental health researchers and service providers from across Australia have come together to contribute to and endorse the 'Orange Declaration' which identifies ten solutions to problems that will improve rural mental health outcomes.

The 'Orange Declaration' was born after the group met in Orange NSW to explore issues relating to rural mental health and wellbeing. Members recognised that Australian rural residents face a series of challenges which are not addressed by the current mix of services and that a new, coordinated approach was needed.

Director of the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health (CRRMH) Professor David Perkins said there was good evidence that rural mental health was not improving, and that single, short-term, disjointed investments were unlikely to make a long-term difference."

"We need to think about solutions in relation to the problems. What are we doing about prevention and early intervention, how can we involve community members, how can we ensure use of the best evidence and new approaches to data as well as shared and effective leadership," said Professor Perkins.

The declaration identifies ten clear solutions to problems and is the result of collaboration and contribution from a wide group of interested parties with the final declaration being published in [The Australian Journal of Rural Health](#).

"The publication of the Orange Declaration is the beginning not the end. We want this declaration to be followed by concerted action for attention and change," said Professor Perkins.

The declaration was launched earlier this month at the International Institute of Mental Health Leadership symposium in Washington and an Australian launch will follow in October at the Australian and New Zealand Rural and Remote Mental Health Symposium.

This declaration has been endorsed by those listed below (see Appendix - The Orange Declaration Endorsement) and the CRRMH welcomes and encourages further support. Click here to [endorse the declaration](#).

More information about the Orange Declaration can be found at <https://www.crrmh.com.au/research/the-orange-declaration/>

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Download the paper: [‘The Orange Declaration on rural and remote mental health’](#) published in [The Australian Journal of Rural Health](#).

For best practice guidelines on reporting suicide or mental ill health, visit the Mindframe Media guidelines on <http://www.mindframe-media.info/>.



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APPENDIX – The ‘Orange Declaration’ Endorsement

The CRRMH acknowledge the vital discussion, expert advice and experience of those who came together to contribute to this declaration statement and now endorse it. By organisation, they are:

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Prof Luis Salvador-Carulla, Head, Centre for Mental Health Research, Research School of Population Health

Dr Nasser Bagheri, Co-director of the VIDEA Lab, Centre for Mental Health Research, Research School of Population Health

Dr Jose Alberto Salinas, Research fellow of the VIDEA Lab, Centre for Mental Health Research, Research School of Population Health and Senior Lecturer Universidad Loyola Andalucia (Spain)

CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY

A/Prof Russell Roberts, Associate Professor in Management, School of Management and Marketing

Dr Andrew McGrath, Associate Head of School (Research) and Senior Lecturer in Psychology, School of Psychology

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

Prof Jeffrey Fuller, Emeritus Professor, College of Nursing and Health Sciences

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

Dr Liz Schroeder, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for the Health Economy

SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MELBOURNE

Prof Jane Farmer, Research Professor of Health & Social Innovation and Director, Social Research Innovation Institute

Dr Anthony McCosker, Deputy Director, Social Research Innovation Institute

A/Prof Amir Aryani, Head of Social Data Analytics (SoDA) lab, Social Research Innovation Institute

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

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Dr Cath Cosgrave, Research Fellow – Nursing and Allied Health Rural Workforce,
Department of Rural Health,
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

Prof David Perkins, Director, Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health, Orange

Dr Hazel Dalton, Research Leader, Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health, Orange

Prof Brian Kelly, Head of School of Medicine and Public Health; Co-Director, Priority
Research Centre for Brain

and Mental Health, and Director, Centre for Resources, Health and Safety

Prof Jennifer May, Director, University of Newcastle Department of Rural Health

Prof Alan Hayes (AM PhD FAPS), Distinguished Professor of Family Studies and Director,
Family Action Centre

Dr Jamin Day, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Psychologist, Family Action Centre

Dr Brooke Short, Lecturer, School of Medicine & Public Health

Dr Tonelle Handley, Research Fellow, Centre for Remote Mental Health

UNIVERSITY NEW ENGLAND

Prof Myfanwy Maple, Professor Social Work, Faculty of Medicine and Health

A/Prof Navjot Bhullar, Faculty of Medicine and Health; School of Psychology

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Dr Georgina Luscombe, Senior Lecturer in Rural Health, Medical Statistics, Medicine, School
of Rural Health

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME AUSTRALIA

Lee Ridoutt, Adjunct Associate Professor, and Director, Human Capital Alliance (HCA)

LISHMAN HEALTH FOUNDATION, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Dianne Ritson, Chief Executive Officer

NSW HEALTH

Jason Crisp, Director, Integrated Mental Health, Drug & Alcohol Services, Western NSW
Local Health District

Anthony Critchley, Director, Mental Health, Central Coast Local Health District

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HUNTER NEW ENGLAND CENTRAL COAST PRIMARY HEALTH NETWORK

Jane Mendelson, Youth Mental Health Commissioning Coordinator

MURRAY PRIMARY HEALTH NETWORK

Anne Somerville, Executive Director Strategy

MURRUMBIDGEE PRIMARY HEALTH NETWORK

Melissa Neal, Chief Executive Officer

Julie Redway, Chief Operations Officer

Anita McRae, Senior Manager Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol

VICTORIAN 'SMART' SMALL RURAL HOSPITALS RESEARCH NETWORK

Dr Dan Douglass, Chief Executive Officer, Heathcote Health, VIC

WESTERN NSW PRIMARY HEALTH NETWORK

Andrew Harvey, Chief Executive Officer

Yvette Lloyd, Executive Manager, Strategy, Engagement & Performance

WESTERN VICTORIA PRIMARY HEALTH NETWORK

Samantha Sharp, Director of Commissioning & Performance

WESTERN AUSTRALIA PRIMARY HEALTH ALLIANCE

Dr Daniel Rock, Principal Advisor and Research Director

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