Psychosis Australia

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26







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Our Purpose

Psychosis Australia brings people with lived and living experience, families and carers, researchers, clinicians, community organisations and policymakers together to improve the lives of people affected by psychosis. Our defining contribution is to connect these perspectives so that research addresses the questions people need answered and informs better policy, treatment and support.

Established in 2010 through a partnership between researchers and the consumer and carer movement, Psychosis Australia builds on the work of the Australian Psychosis Research Network and the Australasian Schizophrenia Conference. Our work encompasses schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and related psychotic conditions.

Our Vision and Mission

Our vision is for reform in the mental health sector to be driven by research that is meaningful to people who live with psychosis.

Our mission is to transform the research landscape to improve the lives of people who live with psychosis in partnership with all stakeholders.

Our Role

We identify research gaps and priorities, facilitate research partnerships, bring evidence and experience into public debate, and promote the translation of research into clinical and community practice. We create opportunities for consumers and carers to influence the research agenda alongside clinical, scientific and service expertise.

The Year at a Glance...



Convened the Australian Psychosis Conference in Brisbane in July 2025, connecting research, practice and lived experience.



Established Psychosis Australia Limited in December 2025, creating a new foundation for independent governance and continuing stewardship of the Trust.



Advanced the Co-design and Research Translation Alliance in Mental Health with MIFA and Queensland partners.



Supported an independent review on cognitive impairment in schizophrenia, published in November 2025.

Report from Interim Chair



This year marked an important step in Psychosis Australia's development. Alongside our conference, research partnerships and work on translation, we established a new company structure to support the organisation's next stage. The purpose of this change is practical: to give Psychosis Australia the continuity, independence and capacity it needs to bring research and lived experience together in ways that improve people's lives.

Psychosis Australia has a particular contribution to make. Researchers, consumers, carers, clinicians and community organisations each hold knowledge that others need. By bringing them into the same conversation, we can ask better questions, identify neglected priorities and help evidence reach the places where care and support are delivered. Our success must ultimately be judged by what changes for people living with psychosis and their families.

Building on MIFA's foundation

The Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia played a foundational role in establishing and supporting the Psychosis Australia Trust. Under the earlier arrangements, MIFA appointed the individual trustees. The new Constitution provides for Psychosis Australia Limited to act as corporate trustee, supporting greater independence and flexibility while retaining the Trust and its charitable purpose.

This gives us a stronger basis for managing our own governance, developing partnerships and pursuing sustainable funding. It also allows continuity of the trustee entity as individual Directors change. We value our history with MIFA and intend to maintain the special relationship of mutual support and collaboration recognised in the Constitution. Our joint work through CoRTA-MH demonstrates the continuing value of that relationship.

Acknowledging Rob Ramjan AM

I particularly acknowledge and thank Rob Ramjan AM for his vision, commitment and proactive leadership. As a Foundation Member and Chair, Rob helped shape Psychosis Australia's purpose and brought people together around the need for better research and better lives for people affected by psychosis. His leadership of the 2025 conference organising committee reflected that same determination to connect evidence, experience and action. Following Rob's resignation, I took on the role of Interim Chair. On behalf of the Board, I thank him for the foundations he has helped build and for his sustained commitment to consumers, families and carers. We carry that work forward with appreciation and a clear sense of responsibility.



The Work Ahead

Our strategy map places lived experience at the centre of research and reform. It also recognises that influence requires organisational capacity. During the year we sought Commonwealth support for dedicated leadership and operational resources. Securing sustainable funding remains a priority so that we can coordinate partnerships, support research translation and maintain momentum beyond individual projects.

I thank my fellow Directors, our research advisers, partners, sponsors and everyone who has contributed their expertise and time. Above all, I thank the people with lived experience and the families and carers whose knowledge gives our work its direction.

Tony Stevenson
Interim Chair



Establishing the new company

Psychosis Australia Limited was established in December 2025 as a company limited by guarantee. Its Constitution provides for the company to act as corporate trustee of the Psychosis Australia Trust and to undertake activities in its own corporate capacity in pursuit of its objects. This structure supports the organisation's development while preserving the Trust's continuing role.

From individual trustees to a corporate trustee

The Trust was originally established with individual trustees appointed by MIFA. The Constitution records that the Trust Deed was amended to allow the appointment of Psychosis Australia Limited as corporate trustee, facilitating continuity, greater independence and flexibility. The change is therefore a move to an independent corporate governance structure, rather than the abolition of the Trust.

MIFA's contribution remains part of Psychosis Australia's foundation. The Constitution expressly recognises the intention to maintain a special relationship characterised by mutual support and collaboration, even where that relationship is no longer structural.

The Board

The Board brings together consumer and carer experience, research, community leadership, legal expertise and knowledge of mental health systems. Lived experience leadership is central to our direction, and our strategy map sets a goal of at least 50 per cent lived experience representation on the Board.

Directors at the time of preparing this report are Tony Stevenson, Interim Chair; Stuart Englund, Deputy Chair; Kerry Hawkins; Zoe Black; Dr Justin Chapman; Professor Dan Siskind; and Dr James McLure. Rob Ramjan AM served during the reporting year before his resignation.

Our multidisciplinary research advisory expertise complements the Board by connecting scientific, clinical and lived experience perspectives with research priorities and translation.



Connecting research practice and lived experience

Australian Psychosis Conference 2025

The Australian Psychosis Conference brought researchers, clinicians, policymakers, people with lived experience, families and carers to Brisbane in July 2025. Its theme, Rivers of Connection: Integrating Research, Practice and Lived Experience, expressed the purpose of the gathering: to strengthen the connections needed for better care and reform.

A free Town Hall at Rydges South Bank on 28 July opened the conversation to the wider community. Over 29 and 30 July, the conference explored discovery, innovation and reform through plenaries, symposia, oral presentations and lightning talks. Approximately one quarter of presentations were delivered by researchers with lived experience of mental illness.









A highlight of the Conference was a specially pre-recorded presentation from Stephen Fry. He spoke candidly about the darkness that can come with mental health challenges, and about the profound hope that also exists. He reminded delegates that, throughout history, people living with mental health conditions have made extraordinary contributions to art, science, culture and society.

Other contributions included a discussion of human rights and reform by Professor Lisa Brophy; lived experience perspectives from Kerry Hawkins and Amanda Habermann; and evidence on physical health and psychosis from Professor Dan Siskind and Associate Professor Julia Lappin. Speakers also addressed early psychosis, cognitive health, national survey evidence and the limitations of existing support systems. Professor Brian Burdekin AO's Sundowner address reinforced the place of human rights in mental health reform.

Donni Johnston (Metro South Addiction and Mental Health Services) won the seed funding pitch at the 2025 Psychosis Australia Conference and was awarded $5,000 by Psychosis Australia. Her project builds on her SNaCK trial, which found that planning, preparing and cooking meals were major barriers to healthy eating for people with schizophrenia. Working with people with lived experience, she will co-design a screening tool to identify who needs practical food support.

The conference recognised Simon Katterl with the inaugural Burdekin Human Rights Award; Helena Roennfeldt with the Lived Experience Leadership Award; Natasha Robinson with the Media Social Impact Award; and Professor Vera Morgan AM with the Research Award. From 2026, the latter will be known as the Vera Morgan Research Award.

Co-design & research translation






Psychosis Australia and MIFA continued to convene the Co-design and Research Translation Alliance in Mental Health, known as CoRTA-MH, with support from the Queensland Mental Health Commission. The alliance connects lived experience leaders, community organisations, health services, universities, policymakers and peak bodies to shape research and improve its use in practice.

A first workshop in March 2026 brought partners together to begin building the consortium. Participants included Rise (Mental Health Lived Experience Peak QLD), Arafmi, Queensland Alliance for Mental Health, Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia, community service providers, hospital and health services, Primary Health Networks, university and research partners, and independent lived experience representatives.

In May 2026, Dr Justin Chapman and Ilyse Elphick represented CoRTA-MH at the Queensland Mental Health Commission's Leading Reform Summit, where the draft Roadmap and Strategy for Action was launched for public consultation. Priorities ahead include a co-designed research strategy, core funding and a dedicated lived experience authority. These are development priorities, with the alliance's governance and capacity continuing to take shape.

Evidence to improve cognitive impairment

Psychosis Australia secured sponsorship from Boehringer Ingelheim for an independent review by Dr Carl Moller, Ryan Shearman and Professor Alison Yung. Published in the Australian & New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry in November 2025, the review examined 198 studies and highlighted variation in how cognitive impairment in schizophrenia is defined and assessed. It provides an evidence base for more consistent assessment and future policy and advocacy work. The project demonstrates our role in connecting an unmet research need with researchers and funding.

Moller, C. I., Shearman, R., & Yung, A. R. (2026). Assessing the prevalence of cognitive impairment among Australians with schizophrenia: A systematic review. Australian & New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry, 60(4), 322–347. https://doi.org/10.1177/00048674251387882

Our priorities & partnerships

Progress towards our strategic goals

Our strategy map connects organisational development with the outcomes we seek for Australians affected by psychosis. The company structure, conference, research partnership and CoRTA-MH initiative provide foundations for this work. The next stage is to turn those foundations into sustained capacity and practical change.

Lived experience at the centre

Strengthen consumer and carer influence in governance, research priorities, co-design and the interpretation and use of findings. Develop links with lived experience networks and peak bodies.

Research that changes practice

Identify research gaps, build partnerships and support the use of evidence in clinical and community settings. Our conference and CoRTA-MH create opportunities for shared learning and translation.

National influence and collaboration

Bring research, clinical and community expertise into policy discussions. Our Commonwealth funding proposal seeks financial support for national leadership and operational support.

A sustainable independent organisation

Strengthen governance and succession planning, develop operational and communications capacity, and diversify funding. The strategy map's longer-term ambition is a viable organisation with sustained government and private support.

The strategy map identifies five intended measures of success: improved physical health and life expectancy; more cost-effective treatments and supports; improved quality of life; increased productivity and social and economic participation; and tangible progress towards prevention, recovery and cure. These are the outcomes that should guide our priorities and partnerships over time.



Recognising leadership & challenging stigma



We congratulate Professor Dan Siskind on the 2026 Outstanding Clinical and Community Research Award from the Schizophrenia International Research Society, shared with Dr Gail Daumit. His work addresses treatment-resistant schizophrenia, clozapine access and safety, and physical health inequities.

During Schizophrenia Awareness Week 2026, Dr James McLure contributed to the Beyond the Headlines campaign through media and community engagement. By sharing his experience of schizophrenia and recovery, he helped challenge stereotypes and encouraged recognition of the whole person beyond a diagnosis.



Acknowledgements

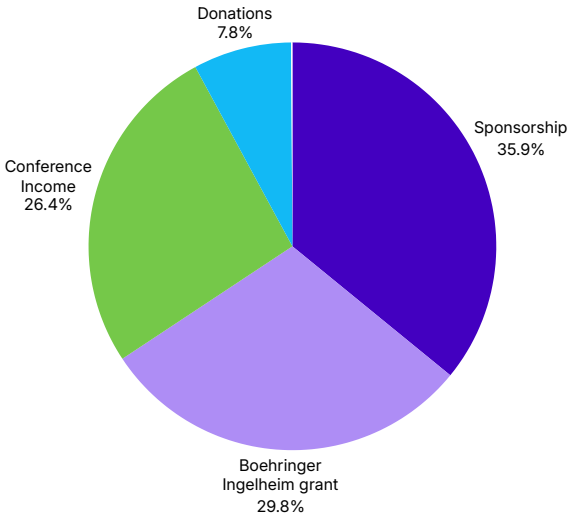
We thank MIFA, the Queensland Mental Health Commission, our CoRTA-MH partners and everyone who contributed to our work. Conference supporters included the Queensland Government, Mental Health Carers Australia, National Mental Health Consumer Alliance, Happy Paws Happy Hearts, Amethyst Study, Karakan, Out From The Mist, Boehringer Ingelheim, Teva Pharma, Servier and iSPS Australia.

We also acknowledge the conference organising committees led by Rob Ramjan AM and Professor Dan Siskind, and the contributions of Tony Stevenson, Ilyse Elphick, Dr Justin Chapman, Kerry Hawkins and Dr Meg Doohan.

Financial summary

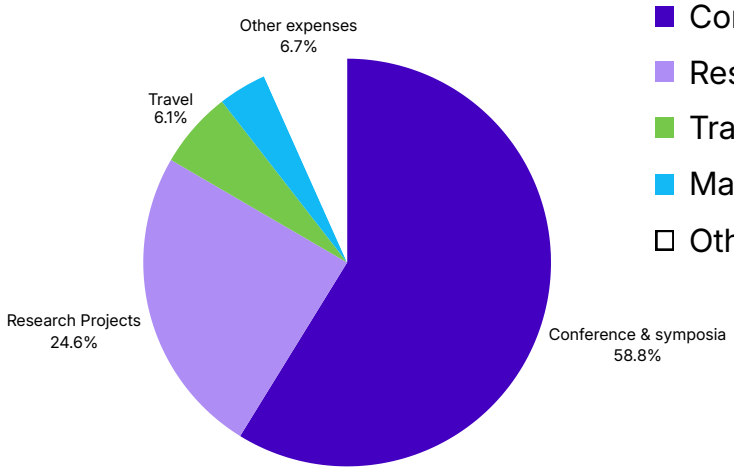
The Psychosis Australia Trust
Year ended 30 June 2026
Revenue of $213,464 and expenditure of $212,981 resulted in a surplus of $483 for the year.

Revenue $213,464



Sponsorship	$76,591
Boehringer Ingelheim grant	$63,600
Conference income	$56,441
Donations	$16,697
Interest	$135

Expenses $212,981



Conference & Symposia	$125,179
Research Projects	$52,400
Travel	$12,979
Marketing & Advertising	$8,166
Other Expenses	$14,257

Surplus	Cash as at 30 June	Net assests at 30 June
$483	**$115,077**	**$120,848**

Conference revenue includes amounts received in advance in 2024-25.
Other expenses include audit, operational management and program support, and administration.

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