

The 13th International Mental Health Conference will be held from the 6th to the 8th of August 2012 at the Outrigger Inn (formerly Holiday Inn) Gold Coast, Qld.

The theme is "Positive Change; Investing in Mental Health" and the CALL FOR PAPERS is now open here. <http://www.anzmf.asn.au/conference>

Mental health awareness and well being strategies are urgent public concerns. Mental illness has the third highest burden of disease in Australia with approximately 45% of adults experiencing a mental illness at some stage of their lives, including alcohol or substance abuse disorders.

The 13th International Mental Health Conference will focus on the complex mental issues affecting the elderly including depression, dementia, delirium, paranoid disorders and anxiety. It will also explore the mental health issues of young Australians (aged 18 -- 24 years) struggling with schizophrenia, depression, suicidal thoughts, bipolar, anxiety disorders and drug use and drug induced psychosis. With 7% of Australian children and adolescents (aged 0 -- 17 years) experiencing mental health problems and only one in four receiving professional health care, a positive change is long overdue.

The conference will examine state, federal, international and COAG initiatives, early intervention strategies, validated treatments, suicide prevention and the effectiveness of mental health preventive measures.

Featuring Australia and New Zealand's finest clinical practitioners, academics, and mental health experts the conference will motivate and inspire professionals (and future professionals) by sharing information about

- * on-going research and findings, policies and organisational models
- * development of new knowledge and the implementation of programs and strategies
- * effective use of scarce resources

The conference will focus on:

- * State, Federal and International initiatives addressing mental health needs.
- * Planning and initiatives of the COAG task force.
- * Research validation of early intervention strategies and treatments for drug induced psychosis, trauma and depression.
- * Research validated treatments designed to facilitate recovery, particularly in the areas of depression and trauma.
- * Initiatives and best practice in suicide prevention
- * Examine and critically review the effectiveness of preventive approaches used in the field of mental health

Keynote addresses, submitted papers, workshops and case studies will examine how approaches and techniques can be incorporated into daily

practise.

The conference streams will include:

- * Multi-level Government initiatives and policies
- * Early interventions
- * Recovery treatments
- * Prevention treatments (including suicide)
- * Workforce re-integration -- best practice? What treatments are most efficacious