



AMAPP

AUSTRALIAN MULTIDISCIPLINARY ASSOCIATION
FOR PSYCHEDELIC PRACTITIONERS

ISSUE NO. 4

APRIL 2026

THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Speaking *up, together.*

This month we mark a long-awaited step forward with the AASW, press the TGA for clarity on clinical eligibility, welcome Dr Amber Domberelli to the advisor team, and open the door to creative-arts integration with Kylie Cooper.

ADVOCACY

Four months on from the TGA submission — and the case for clarity

WORKFORCE

A competency-based vision for PAT in Australia, co-signed with PACFA

PRACTICE

Creative-arts integration, supervision, and frontiers in ethics

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR THE AMAPP
COMMUNITY OF PRACTITIONERS, RESEARCHERS,
EDUCATORS, AND ADVOCATES.

AMAPP.ORG.AU

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FROM THE EDITOR

Four months is a long time in advocacy. This issue captures where we have pushed, where the ground has shifted, and where the work is still underway — held together by a community that keeps showing up for this field, for one another, and for the people we serve.

A Word from Dr Lani *Roy*.



Dr Alana (Lani) Roy

CHAIR · AMAPP

Psychologist · Social Worker · Advocate

chair@amapp.org.au

⚡ ADVOCACY UPDATE — TGA SUBMISSION

In December 2025, AMAPP lodged a formal stakeholder submission to the TGA seeking urgent clarification on the '**or equivalent**' qualification standard under the Authorised Prescriber framework for MDMA and psilocybin. Approaching four months on, we are yet to receive a substantive response — and the delay is producing real, ongoing harm to clinically ready patients.

AMAPP has formally raised six human rights concerns with the TGA, including patients' right to access approved treatments, continuity of care with established therapeutic alliances, informed patient choice, and non-discrimination in access.

We are not asking for a lowering of standards. We are asking that an existing published standard be given operational meaning — and that the vague term 'or equivalent' be removed or defined.

AMAPP will continue to advocate publicly and through stakeholder channels until this is resolved.

CONTACT THE CHAIR ↗

02 · SECTOR RELATIONSHIPS & STANDARDS — — —

A Significant Step Forward with *AASW*.

AASW — Inaugural PAT Meeting

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS



We are pleased to share that the **Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW)** has held its **inaugural meeting on psychedelic-assisted therapy** — a meaningful and long-awaited step forward in recognising the vital role of social workers in this emerging field.

This milestone reflects growing momentum toward greater social work acknowledgement and representation within the PAT landscape. AMAPP warmly welcomes this development and looks forward to deepening our relationship with the AASW — ensuring social workers are recognised, supported, and included as skilled and valued members of multidisciplinary PAT teams across Australia.

An Inclusive, *Competency-Based* PAT Workforce

AMAPP × PACFA — Joint TGA Submission

PSYCHOTHERAPY & COUNSELLING FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA



AMAPP has called on the TGA to adopt a broader, competency-based approach to psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy in Australia. **PACFA's College of Psychotherapy is closely involved with AMAPP, and PACFA contributed directly to this submission.**

Current TGA guidelines require a minimum of one psychiatrist and/or clinical psychologist. AMAPP argues this narrow scope excludes highly skilled professionals with relevant expertise, limits workforce capacity, and reduces access for clients.

ELIGIBILITY BASED ON — — —



Demonstrated competence



Appropriate training & supervision



Ethical & safety standards

02 · SECTOR RELATIONSHIPS (CONTINUED) — — —

Recognising Additional *Practitioner Roles*

The submission argues that a broader range of appropriately trained practitioners should be eligible to contribute to the psychedelic-assisted therapy workforce — not as a lowering of standards, but as a recognition of existing competence across the clinical ecosystem.

Psychotherapists

Counsellors

Social Workers

Nurses

General Practitioners

Paramedics

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners

Clinical Governance & Accreditation

The submission is paired with a clear governance framework, not just a widening of eligibility. AMAPP and PACFA jointly propose:

- **Mandatory accreditation** and ongoing professional development across all eligible disciplines.
- **Regular supervision** as a standing professional requirement, not a one-off credential.
- **Sector-wide ethical and practice standards**, co-developed with professional bodies and informed by lived experience.

A competency-based framework is not a shortcut. It is a more honest reflection of who already delivers skilled, ethical, multidisciplinary care in this field — and who the current rules exclude.

VISIT PACFA ↗

AMAPP POLICY & GUIDELINES ↗

03 · POLICY ADVOCACY RESOURCES — — —

Policy & *Submissions.*

Two formal submissions are available in full, drawn from AMAPP's work with PACFA and our ongoing dialogue with the TGA on the Authorised Prescriber scheme.

POLICY DOCUMENT

AMAPP TGA Submission Letter from PACFA

August 2025

A formal submission letter supporting policy clarity and professional inclusion in psychedelic-assisted therapy.

OPEN RESOURCE ↗

POLICY DOCUMENT

Expanding Clinical Recognition — MDMA & Psilocybin AP Scheme

AMAPP Policy Submission

Addresses access, clinical recognition, and the Authorised Prescriber framework for psychedelic-assisted therapy in Australia.

OPEN RESOURCE ↗

Why these documents matter

Policy work does not change practice overnight. But the written record matters. Each submission AMAPP lodges builds a body of evidence — not only about what the current framework gets wrong, but about what a workable, equitable alternative looks like in plain language and concrete recommendations.

These two documents sit alongside earlier AMAPP work on MDMA-assisted psychotherapy

guidelines, workforce recognition, and patient access. Together they set out a coherent, internally consistent position that professional bodies, regulators, and the sector can respond to on the record.

If you're a member, a journalist, or a stakeholder seeking to understand AMAPP's formal positions — these are the documents to read first.

Responding to Public Commentary on *Cannabis*.

BRIEF POSITION STATEMENT · MARCH 2026

Limited evidence is not the same as no evidence. Low-certainty evidence is not the same as evidence of no effect. Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence.

Following the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists' (RANZCP) public framing of a recent cannabis and mental health review, AMAPP issued a brief position statement urging greater precision in scientific communication. Some of the commentary that followed risked overstating what the review does and does not show — a distinction that matters for clinicians, clients, and public trust in emerging evidence.

AMAPP supports rigorous scientific evaluation and careful interpretation of the evidence base. We continue to call for balanced discussion of available evidence, more formulation-specific research, and communication that reflects the real limits and strengths of what is known. A fuller position statement is in preparation.

[READ THE FULL STATEMENT ↗](#)

Why this matters for the field

Public statements from professional bodies shape how clinicians, policymakers, and patients understand an emerging evidence base. Language that conflates 'we do not yet have strong evidence' with 'evidence shows this does not work' has downstream effects — on clinical decision-making, on research funding, and on the confidence of patients seeking care.

AMAPP's role in these moments is not to argue for a particular product or pathway. It is to argue for scientific precision — so the public conversation reflects what the evidence genuinely supports, and what remains uncertain.

Creative & Expressive Arts for *Integration*.



Kylie Cooper
ARTIST · WRITER

WITH KYLIE COOPER · ONLINE VIA ZOOM

An experiential arts-based exploration of integration

Monday 18 May 2026 · 7:00–8:30 PM AEST

Free for AMAPP members · \$15 + booking fee for non-members

A multimodal, hands-on workshop using creative art-making processes for self-inquiry and meaning-making. Participants engage through felt-sense, image-making, and object arrangement. No prior artistic skill required.

REGISTER VIA HUMANITIX ↗

Why creative integration matters

Integration work sits at the heart of psychedelic-assisted therapy — the slow, careful process of making meaning from non-ordinary experience, and of weaving what surfaced into the texture of everyday life. It is where short-term insight becomes long-term change.

Creative and expressive arts modalities offer a particularly well-suited entry point. Image-making, felt-sense exploration, and object arrangement bypass the verbal-first bias of much traditional

therapy, and let material that resists language find form — in colour, in shape, in gesture, in story.

Kylie brings a practitioner's sensibility and a writer's care to this material. The workshop is practical, warm, and designed to be generative whether you are a clinician integrating creative tools into your practice, or a member of the community exploring integration for yourself.

No prior artistic skill is required. Materials will be suggested in advance of the session.

Foundations of *Effective Preparation.*



Lana Sciberras

CLINICAL SUPERVISOR

Clinical Psychotherapist

Twenty-year private practice clinician trained in Gestalt therapy and process-oriented psychology, and in psychedelic-assisted therapy through MAPS. Lana currently participates in MDMA-assisted PTSD trials and psilocybin depression research, and has provided clinical supervision to hospital trauma teams for over a decade — including Reflective Practice groups at The Alfred.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Session 1 with Lana. Here are the remaining three sessions in the series — each one building on the last.

Free for AMAPP members · \$15 + booking fee for non-members

Building the Container for Psychedelic Therapy

SESSION 2 OF 4

Wed 3 June

12:30 PM AEST

REGISTER ↗

SESSION 3 OF 4

Wed 5 August

12:30 PM AEST

REGISTER ↗

SESSION 4 OF 4

Wed 7 October

12:30 PM AEDT

REGISTER ↗

All sessions hosted online via Zoom. Register via Humanitix (events.humanitix.com/host/amapp).

Welcoming Dr Amber *Domberelli*.



Dr Amber Domberelli

AMAPP ADVISOR

Pharmacist · Researcher · Advocate

A warm welcome to Dr Amber Domberelli, who joins AMAPP as an advisor — bringing a rare blend of clinical pharmacy, policy, and psychedelic-research experience to the team.

Amber is a pharmacist, researcher, and advocate for evidence-informed approaches to substance use and mental health. She holds a PhD from RMIT University — where her doctoral research explored microdosing with psychedelics — alongside a Master of Pharmacy, Master of Medical Research (First Class Honours), and Fellowship of ANZCAP in Addiction Medicine and Research.

Amber brings expertise spanning clinical pharmacy, health policy, and translational research, having held senior roles with NSW Health and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia. She currently serves as District Pharmacist with the Emergency Mental Health Addiction Assessment Response Team (EMHAART), is NSW State Lead for The Loop, a Director of Bluelight Communities, and a published author on the therapeutic potential of psychedelics.

A warm welcome to the AMAPP team.

Our *Advisors.*

We are proud to be supported by advisors advancing the field of psychedelic-assisted therapy in Australia and beyond. This issue we highlight two recent publications.



Dr Anthony Helman

AMAPP ADVISOR

GP · GP SUPERVISOR · PSYCHEDELIC PSYCHOTHERAPIST

Psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy: The Australian general practice perspective

Dr Helman's new paper — published in the Australian Journal of General Practice — provides GPs with a practical, evidence-informed guide to psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy in the Australian context: what to expect, when to refer, and the GP's vital role supporting patients through this treatment.

Helman A. Psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy: The Australian and general practice perspective. Aust J Gen Pract 2026;55(1-2):41-47.

[READ THE ARTICLE ↗](#)

Why this matters in primary care

General practice is the most common first point of contact for Australians navigating complex mental health presentations. GPs carry the referral relationship, the continuity of care, and often the trust that decides whether a patient explores newer treatment pathways at all.

Helman's paper is written for that audience. It does not assume specialist knowledge of psychedelic therapy, and does not oversell. It maps the current Australian landscape, the place of MDMA and psilocybin under the Authorised Prescriber scheme, and the GP's clinical role — before, during, and after treatment — with practical, referable guidance.

Eligibility for *Psychedelic Therapy*

Clinical trial medical exclusion criteria and their implications for hospital practice

Williams ML, Hitchcock K, Miller AH, Beck SA. *General Hospital Psychiatry* 2026;98:116–125.

An open-access paper arguing that overly stringent medical exclusion criteria in clinical trials may be unnecessarily limiting patient access to psychedelic therapies. The authors examine how trial-era exclusion criteria — designed for research conditions — have been carried into real-world practice, and whether that carry-over is clinically justified.

[READ THE OPEN-ACCESS PAPER ↗](#)



Dr Martin Williams
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
PRISM · AMAPP ADVISOR**

Senior Research Fellow at Swinburne's Centre for Mental Health and Executive Director of PRISM (Psychedelic Research in Science & Medicine). A co-investigator on Australian psilocybin trials and a long-standing advocate for evidence-driven psychedelic medicine.



Dr Simon Beck
**SECRETARY, AUSTRALIAN
PSYCHEDELIC SOCIETY**

MD and psychedelic harm-reduction advocate based on Gumbaynggirr Country, NSW. Secretary of the Australian Psychedelic Society (APS), bridging community-based practice with clinical rigour — including prior work on wood-lover paralysis.

Who gets excluded from a trial — and why — matters long after the trial has ended. Those criteria often become the template for access in the real world.

09 · PARTNERED EVENT · MHPN x AMAPP — — —

Frontiers & Edges: *Ethics* in Practice.

A grounded, practice-informed conversation on ethics in a rapidly evolving field — hosted by MHPN's Psychedelic-Assisted Psychotherapy and Plant Medicine Mental Health Network, in partnership with AMAPP.



Dr Sandra Dreisbach

Psychedelic Ethicist &
Philosopher
AMAPP Advisor



Dr Lani Roy

PAT Therapist
AMAPP Chair

Wed 6 May 2026 · 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM AEST · Online (Zoom)

Hosted by MHPN's PAT & Plant Medicine Mental Health Network. **Free to attend.**

A practice-informed exploration of the ethical complexities emerging at the intersection of clinical care, community practice, regulation, Indigenous knowledge, training, and leadership. Rather than abstract theory, this session focuses on real-world dilemmas, lived experience, and case-based discussion — supporting ethical discernment with clarity, humility, and care.

Suited to clinicians, PAT practitioners and trainees, researchers, educators, policy professionals, community facilitators, and students.

RSVP VIA MHPN ↗

10 · VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES — — —

Four *ways* in.

AMAPP is recruiting three volunteer roles and offering supervised placements for students. All remote, all flexible, all open to anyone whose skills and values align.

~2 HRS / WEEK · REMOTE · 1 YEAR MINIMUM

Volunteer *Secretary*

Support governance, meetings, membership operations, and ACNC-aligned record keeping across the board.

[LEARN MORE →](#)

~5 HRS / MONTH · REMOTE · BOARD ROLE

Board *Treasurer*

Safeguard AMAPP's financial health, oversee ACNC and ATO compliance, and guide sustainable revenue strategy.

[LEARN MORE →](#)

3-5 HRS / WEEK · REMOTE · FLEXIBLE

Grants & Funding *Volunteer*

Identify and draft funding applications to resource First Nations membership, community education, and research translation.

[LEARN MORE →](#)

FOR STUDENTS · REMOTE & IN-PERSON · SUPERVISED

Student *Placements*

Supervised placements across psychology, social work, psychotherapy, art therapy, public health, comms, and more.

[LEARN MORE →](#)

Full position descriptions at amapp.org.au/volunteer

Peer Support · *Advocacy* · Trust.

Our mission is to create a trusted and ethical space for psychedelic-assisted therapy practitioners to thrive. By providing peer support, advocacy, educational opportunities and resources, we strengthen a movement that honours healing, integrity, and the useful role of psychedelics in helping address mental health problems and the maintenance of a healthy society.



PEER SUPPORT

Nurturing a connected, multidisciplinary PAT community that honours professional expertise and lived experience — through mentorship, leadership, and a strong foundation of support.



ADVOCACY

Championing equitable, safe, and ethical PAT — promoting awareness, access, and harm reduction, supporting client rights to best-practice care, and protecting practitioners.



TRUST

Integrating research into real-world practice with scientific rigour, wisdom, and openness — advancing PAT free from stigma to instil trust in our members, clients, and wider community.

[Read the full mission statement ↗](#)

Why Join *AMAPP*?

AUSTRALIA'S PEAK BODY FOR LEGAL PSYCHEDELIC-ASSISTED THERAPY

Memberships for every stage of *your journey*.

AMAPP is the only peak multidisciplinary body in Australia dedicated exclusively to ethical, legal psychedelic-assisted therapy. Whether you are a student, a seasoned clinician, a researcher, or an advocate — your membership directly strengthens the movement for safe, equitable, evidence-informed PAT in Australia. Memberships are kept deliberately affordable so that practitioners at every stage of their journey can participate fully.

COMMUNITY

Connect with a thriving, multidisciplinary network of psychologists, social workers, psychiatrists, counsellors, nurses, GPs, researchers, and advocates across Australia.

ADVOCACY

Add your voice to AMAPP's national advocacy — from TGA submissions and workforce reform to shaping competency standards alongside PACFA and AASW.

LEARNING

Free access to expert webinars, peer supervision sessions, and a curated research database — keeping you at the leading edge of a rapidly evolving field.

CREDENTIALLING

AMAPP is developing a credentialling framework for PAT practitioners — giving the public, employers, and referrers confidence in your training, ethics, and competence.

MEMBER BENEFITS

- Free supervision sessions
- Free webinar access
- Practitioner directory listing
- Research database access
- Peer support & mentorship
- Advocacy & policy updates
- Educational opportunities
- Members community (Mighty Networks)
- Discounts on global programs
- Access to AMAPP member badge

[SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP ↗](#)

[MEMBERS COMMUNITY ↗](#)

RESOURCES — — —

Databases & Key *Documents*.

Practitioners Database

Search for qualified psychedelic-assisted therapy practitioners across Australia. AMAPP members can list their services and connect with clients and peers.

[Browse Directory ↗](#)

Research Database

Access curated peer-reviewed research, clinical guidelines, position statements, and emerging evidence to deepen and support your practice.

[Explore Research ↗](#)

KEY DOCUMENTS

- [Mission Statement](#)
- [Comprehensive Position Statement \(2025\)](#)
- [Response to RANZCP — Cannabis & Mental Health](#)
- [Critical Analysis — MDMA-Assisted Psychotherapy Guideline](#)
- [TGA Authorised Prescriber Submission \(MDMA/Psilocybin\)](#)

Credentialling Framework

AMAPP is developing a national credentialling framework for PAT practitioners — a rigorous, transparent, and publicly accessible record built with PACFA, AASW, and sector experts to reflect genuine multidisciplinary competence.

[LEARN MORE & JOIN ↗](#)

Support a Cause You Believe In

AMAPP is a registered charity run largely by volunteers. Every dollar goes directly into advocacy — TGA submissions, workforce reform, free supervision and education.

Donations over \$2 are fully tax-deductible.

[DONATE TO AMAPP ↗](#)

THANK YOU

It is a genuine privilege to walk this path with such a dedicated, compassionate, and multidisciplinary community. Thank you for everything you bring to this work — whether you are joining for the first time or have been part of AMAPP from the beginning.

Reach out anytime at info@amapp.org.au or chair@amapp.org.au

*Warm regards,
The AMAPP Team*



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FOR PSYCHEDELIC PRACTITIONERS

*"A trusted and ethical space for psychedelic-assisted
therapy practitioners to thrive."*

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