

**02/05/2025**

Mental Health Council of Tasmania Media Release

## **MHCT's New CEO to Advance Community Mental Health Vision**

Recently appointed CEO of the Mental Health Council of Tasmania, Dan Vautin, says he is looking forward to continuing the important work of the organisation.

Mr. Vautin brings a wealth of private and not-for-profit sector experience to the role, most recently serving as Director of Policy and 2IC at the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Council.

His extensive background in community sector policy and advocacy positions him well to lead MHCT into its next chapter as it continues to advocate for greater investment in the community mental health sector that provides critical support to thousands of Tasmanians.

With rates of mental health issues increasing across Tasmania, Mr Vautin said the role of MHCT and its members had never been more important.

“All Tasmanians deserve access to timely and affordable resources for good mental health and wellbeing. Building the capacity of the community-managed mental health sector to meet the growing needs of Tasmanians is a high priority.”

He said that community organisations were a crucial part of Tasmania’s mental health system but noted funding challenges were making it difficult for organisations to forward plan, attract and retain staff.

“The community mental health sector provides vital supports that help thousands of Tasmanians thrive. Despite long promised five-year funding agreements, the sector continues to grapple with short term contracts and funding uncertainty. Like our members, MHCT is heavily exposed to short-term project funding, and our staff are bearing the brunt of this uncertainty.”

He said Tasmanians are becoming unnecessarily unwell, with a need to focus on prevention and early intervention initiatives that support people to thrive, providing the help they need before they require more costly and complex interventions.

“I welcome the 20-year preventative health strategy and the opportunity it offers to shift the focus and invest significantly in prevention and early intervention services that help people stay well in their communities.”

The Productivity Commission’s 2020 report on mental health found that proper investment in prevention and early intervention would lead to increased quality of life, creating up to \$18 billion annually in budget savings across the country.

“I think the Tasmanian government is serious about changing outcomes for Tasmanians. Their investment in Take a minute and our Lived Experience Training Hub showcases this commitment, and we hope to see more funding to build on these projects.”

Mr Vautin thanked outgoing CEO, Connie Digolis, praising her invaluable contributions to the organisation and the sector during her ten years at the helm.

"Connie's passion and dedication was instrumental in positioning MHCT as the leading voice for Tasmania's community-managed mental health system. Her legacy provides a strong foundation which the MHCT team and I will continue to build upon."

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**Please include the following crisis support services for any story regarding mental health or suicide:**

A Tasmania Lifeline: 1800 984 434 [atasmanianlifeline.com.au/](https://atasmanianlifeline.com.au/)

Lifeline: 13 11 14 or Text 0477 13 11 14 [lifeline.org.au](https://lifeline.org.au)

Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800 [kidshelpline.com.au/](https://kidshelpline.com.au/)

Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467 [suicidecallbackservice.org.au](https://suicidecallbackservice.org.au)

**More information on safely reporting on mental illness or suicide can be found at:**

[mindframe.org.au/](https://mindframe.org.au/) and [lifeinmind.org.au/the-charter](https://lifeinmind.org.au/the-charter)