

MEDIA RELEASE

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STUDY SHEDS LIGHT ON MENTAL ILLNESS

The Mental Illness Fellowship Victoria is the state's leading membership-based, not-for-profit organisation working for people with mental illness, their families and friends. It designs and manages programs across the state with an annual budget of approximately \$7million.

MI Fellowship has conducted one of the largest studies of people with mental illness in Australia. 1072 people with mental illness were interviewed. All but 23 were 18yo+. Of those surveyed:

EMPLOYMENT

82% were unemployed.

Employment readiness is a key issue for people with mental illness. So too stigma and discrimination in the workplace.

LIVING ARRANGEMENT

40% live with family.

33% live alone.

Clearly a small percentage live with a partner / spouse.

LIVING ARRANGEMENT 2

Of those living out of home:

22% own their residence

30% privately rent their residence

21% publicly rent

CARING ARRANGEMENTS

Overwhelmingly it is **women** – *mothers in particular* – who shoulder the burden of caring for those with mental illness. This is the breakdown of the carers.

48% mother

7% wife / female partner

7% other female relative

3% daughter

Total female: 65%

9% father

15% husband / male partner

5% other male relative

2% son

Total male: 31%

www.mifellowship.org for more details. Media should contact Brett de Hoedt on 0414 713 802 / 03 9510 0848.