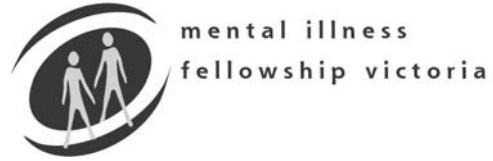


13 October 2005

Attention: News | Health | Community



OPEN MIND FIESTA FINALE TO MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Fiesta in Fairfield - Sunday October 16

Mental Illness Fellowship Victoria (MI Fellowship) with the support of the Fairfield Traders Association and Darebin City Council will bring the issues of mental illness to the community with the **Open Mind Fiesta**, Station Street Fairfield on Sunday October 16.

Tens of thousands of people from the local community are expected together with people with mental illness, their family, friends and volunteers. Marking the end of Mental Health Week, **Open Mind Fiesta** is unique because it gives people a great excuse to enjoy the festivities while also receiving a serious message about mental health.

Fox Footy personality **Tiffany Cherry** will host the 'MI Shop' Fashion Parade featuring a display of vintage couture selected from MI Fellowship's op shops. There will also be a fashion parade of a different kind – featuring four legged models showing off the unique 'Yapwear' for dogs.

The stage will feature performances by Mind Illusionist Mark Mayer as well as people with a mental illness, such as rock band **Full Mental Jacket**.

Station Street will be closed to traffic to make room for a life sizes snakes and ladders board game, belly dancers and the popular wrestling ring. There will be carnival rides, face painters, children's farm and traders' stalls. There will also be a Mental Health Help Desk where qualified will answer the public's mental health questions.

"Our **Open Mind Fiesta** is a family fun day where the issues of mental illness are subtly communicated. It's the first of its kind in Australia," explains MI Fellowship Chief Executive Elizabeth Crowther. "We look forward to a great family day out which will help understanding and acceptance of people with a mental illness. This is a real life example of how while one in five Australians is directly affected by mental illness, five in five can help".

MI Fellowship Victoria runs 35 programs across the state including rehabilitation, education, respite and vocational programs. Its annual budget is \$9 million and is Victoria's largest membership-based mental health organisation with 170 staff, over 500 volunteers, 1500-plus members and over 40,000 supporters.

Public can contact MI Fellowship on 03 8486 4200 or visit www.mifellowship.org.
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