

**News desk, community affairs,  
health and medical reporters.**



**mental illness  
fellowship victoria**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**August 2007**

# **EXPERTS, STATISTICS AND REAL PEOPLE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR NEXT MENTAL HEALTH STORY**

Mental Illness Fellowship Victoria is a membership-based non profit organisation that is driven by the passion and professionalism of 170 staff, 500 volunteers, a board of directors and corporate supporters. Each year we provide jobs, homes, rehabilitation, education and telephone helpline to 3000 Victorians affected by mental illnesses including depression, bi-polar and schizophrenia. We also work with their family, friends, carers and employers.

MI Fellowship also creates events that give the public contact with people with mental illness including the annual Bruce Woodcock memorial lecture and the upcoming Open Mind Fiesta in Fairfield which attracts 30,000 people.

What started in 1978 as a small band of volunteers has developed into one of Australia's largest and leading mental health organisations with a budget exceeding \$10 million. Our soon-to-be renovated website is: [www.mifellowship.org](http://www.mifellowship.org)

MI Fellowship Victoria can provide comment on:

- causes, effects and treatment of various mental illnesses;
- mental illness and the impact on families;
- the social stigma attached to mental illness;
- myths and stereotypes surrounding mental illness;
- social, education and employment issues for people with mental illness;
- programs and services available to people with mental illnesses and their families and friends;pu
- budget and funding issues;
- government policy.

### **Australians Talk Mental Illness 2007**

MI Fellowship has recently driven a comprehensive survey of Australians' top five concerns about mental health. More than 2000 responses were recorded. The results will be released in September.

With Mental Health Week coming up October 7-14, there's no better time to talk about mental illness and its surrounding issues.

For informed comment, interview opportunities and information contact Brett de Hoedt of Hootville Communications. P 03 9510 0848 E [brett@hootville.com](mailto:brett@hootville.com)