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MEDIA RELEASE

DON'T CALL ME NUTS! AUTHOR TOURS MELBOURNE TO FIGHT MENTAL ILLNESS STIGMA

MI FELLOWSHIP WELCOMES US PSYCHOLOGIST & ADVOCATE PATRICK CORRIGAN

Mental Illness Fellowship Victoria (MI Fellowship) has announced that renowned American psychologist Dr Patrick Corrigan will deliver the annual Bruce Woodcock lecture as one of the key events of Schizophrenia Awareness Week (May 20 to 27) on Thursday May 17 at the BMW Edge Theatre at Federation Square.

Corrigan, who is executive director for the Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation at the University of Chicago and director of the Chicago Consortium for Stigma Research, is an outspoken advocate on the need for communities to establish contact with people with mental illness.

His book **Don't Call Me Nuts!** written with Robert Lundin, deals with the issues of stigma, disclosure, ways to foster personal empowerment, self-stigma and how to change society's negative view of people with mental illness. Corrigan believes the mental illness community can learn from other stigmatised groups including gays, African Americans and other minorities. Corrigan has published over 100 papers and has received the Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award for his work. He will spend his time in Victoria meeting mental health professionals, advocates and politicians and people with mental illness and their families.

"Patrick's passion reflects one of our key priorities – bringing people with mental illness into contact with broader society," says Liz Crowther, Chief Executive of Mental Illness Fellowship Victoria. "MI Fellowship has been promoting this through events such as our annual Open Mind Fiesta and programs like our Prevention and Recovery Centres."

Media: Dr Corrigan and Liz Crowther are available for interview on issues of mental illness and stigma via Hootville Communications' Gareth Wills on 03 9510 4894.

Details: The 9th Annual Bruce Woodcock Memorial Lecture.
Thursday May 17, 5.45pm
BMW Edge Theatre, Federation Square, Melbourne
Professor Patrick Corrigan, University of Chicago, Illinois USA
Introduced by: **Fran Kelly, presenter Breakfast, ABC Radio National**
Entry by gold coin donation.

About MI Fellowship: Mental Illness Fellowship Victoria (MI Fellowship) is a membership-based not for profit organisation delivering \$10 million worth of services through 35+ programs in areas of rehabilitation, respite, a help line, employment, education, training and accommodation and advocating for people with mental illness and their families. It employs 170 staff and engages 500 volunteers. www.mifellowship.org