



## **Announcing Phillipa Thomas as the new Chief Executive Officer of Mental Health Victoria.**

Mental Health Victoria today announced the appointment of its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Phillipa Thomas, commencing from 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

Many of our associates and sector colleagues will know Phillipa from her work over many years within the Mental Health and Wellbeing system. Phillipa is a dynamic and accomplished senior executive with deep knowledge of the mental health sector. She is currently employed as the Executive Director, Reform Implementation at Victoria's Department of Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing Division.

Phillipa is a focused, outcomes-centric leader, with a proven track record in Mental Health reform. She is an experienced policy maker, strategist, clinician, and health system leader with an extensive background in public health, government, and not-for-profit organisational governance.

Phillipa brings to Mental Health Victoria a range of skills and expertise in mental health and suicide prevention that includes system and legislative reform, design and planning, implementation and troubleshooting, social marketing, research and evaluation.

Her career has included roles with Mental Health Reform Victoria, Alfred Health, the Mental Health Complaints Commissioner and Office of the Chief Psychiatrist, as well as governance roles including as a Board Sub Committee member at YSAS.

Phillipa is looking forward to taking up the role of CEO for MHV.

*"Mental Health Victoria is in a unique position to support and sustain the momentum of reform, ensuring that priorities remain contemporary and are shaped by the experience and context of the mental health sector and the Victorian community. By capitalising on our collective insights, we are limitless in our capacity to resolve shared challenges, and I'm pleased to have the opportunity to be of service in this role."*

*"On behalf of the Board, we warmly welcome Phillipa Thomas as our new CEO. Phillipa's passion, purpose and sector knowledge will strengthen our mission at MHV. We anticipate her positive impact with great excitement"* Karenza Louis-Smith. Board Chair.

The Board would also like to publicly acknowledge the leadership from our **Deputy CEO Emily Wolter** who has led the organisation for the past 4 months as we embarked on the search for the our CEO supported by a great team of staff.

Emily has led many important initiatives over this period and has worked closely with the Board and the executive team to ensure that MHV continued to focus on our very important strategic priorities. We are deeply grateful to Emily for her leadership as acting CEO during this significant period.

**Further information:**

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