

EMBARGOED: 7.30AM AEST, SUNDAY, 29 AUGUST, 2021

New treatment for adults with schizophrenia set to be PBS listed

Next Wednesday, 1 September, 2021 adults living with schizophrenia will gain affordable access to a new treatment option on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).¹

Affecting approximately 90,000 Australians,² schizophrenia is considered our nation's most disabling, and heavily stigmatised mental illness,³ with the average life expectancy of those with the illness, 12.5 to 16.5 years below that of the general population.² The very high death rates associated with schizophrenia⁴ are often due to preventable physical diseases, such as heart disease diabetes, infections, and suicide.^{5,6}



Given the complex range of symptoms, from hallucinations and delusions,^{7,8} to apathy and social withdrawal,^{9,10} treatment for schizophrenia is not a "one size fits all".¹¹

To learn more, including information about the availability and accessibility of affordable treatment options for adults living with schizophrenia, tee up an interview with a spokesperson below.

EXPERTS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW	
Prof Ian Hickie AM	Co-Director for Health & Policy, Brain & Mind Centre, The University of Sydney & NHMRC Senior Principal Research Fellow, SYDNEY [currently on NSW Central Coast]
Prof Suresh Sundram	Head, Department of Psychiatry, School of Clinical Sciences, Monash University & Director of Research, Mental Health Program, Monash Health, MELBOURNE
Dr Jonathan Anderson	Head of Medical Affairs Asia Pacific, Seqirus, MELBOURNE
A/Prof Dennis Liu	Senior Consultant Psychiatrist, Northern Mental Health Service, Lyell McEwin Hospital & Clinical A/Prof, School of Medicine, University of Adelaide, ADELAIDE
Dr Mathew Samuel	Consultant Psychiatrist, Hollywood Medical Centre & Clinical Director, West Australian Centre for Trauma Treatment & Research Centre, PERTH
ADVOCACY GROUP REPRESENTATIVE	
Tony Stevenson	National CEO, Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia (MIFA), BRISBANE
AUSTRALIANS LIVING WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA	
Richard, 40	Mental health advocate & policy advisor living with schizophrenia, SYDNEY
Alana, 34	Author, podcaster & financial services Senior Product Development Manager living with schizophrenia, SYDNEY
J.J, 38	Mental health support peer group volunteer & mature aged student living with schizophrenia, SYDNEY
DIGITAL MEDIA KIT	Download SUNDAY, 29 AUGUST, 2021 – www.schizophreniamediakit.com.au
VNR	Download SUNDAY, 29 AUGUST, 2021 – www.vimeo.com/592544606/d1188a8813
MEDIA CONTACTS	
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CONSUMER MEDIA ALERT



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11. Health Direct. *Schizophrenia*. 2020 [June 2021]; Available from: <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/schizophrenia>.

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