

Mental Health First Aid Australia Champion Communities Program

A pathway for the development of resilient and connected communities through Mental Health First Aid training.

The Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Champion Communities Program recognises Australian Local Government Areas (LGAs) that invest in developing mental health first aid skills in their people, and who demonstrate a strong commitment to embedding MHFA training within their local community in a planned, integrated and sustainable way.

In doing so, the program promotes partnerships and collaboration between Local Government, organisations, groups, and individuals, and acts as a tool for engaging and supporting communities across Australia, to deliver MHFA training across a range of settings and population groups within the local community.

Why participate?

The MHFA Champion Communities Program can support and strengthen your community's delivery of Mental Health First Aid training by providing:



A framework for best practice implementation of MHFA training within a community setting.



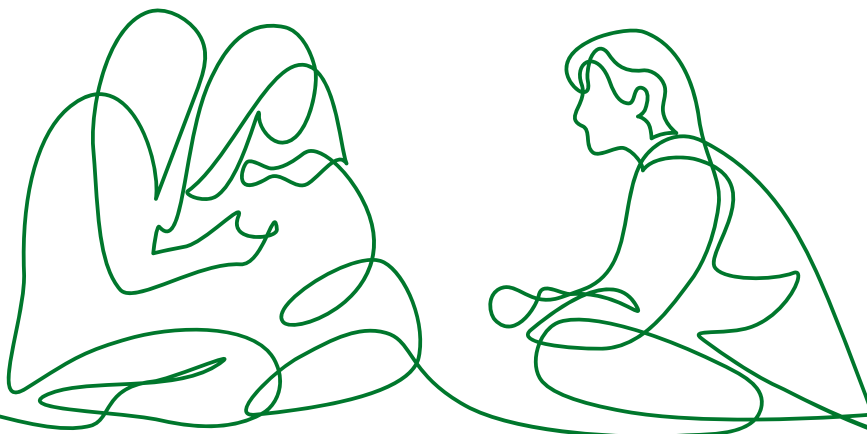
Helpful resources including guidance and support from MHFA Australia's Community Engagement Team.



Formal recognition to extend your local community reach and impact.



Membership to a network of Champion Communities for sharing, learning and development opportunities.



The MHFA Champion Communities recognition criteria

To be recognised as an MHFA Champion Community, Local Councils are required to demonstrate their LGA's activity and achievements of the six components of the programs recognition criteria.

The ways in which Local Council can demonstrate their achievements will differ based on the local implementation approach taken to deliver and embed MHFA Australia training within their community.

1 Local leadership commitment and engagement

The implementation and embedding of MHFA Australia training within the community is driven and supported by local council, local organisations or group representatives.

2 Planning

A strategy or plan is developed to guide the implementation and embedding of MHFA Australia training within the community, in a staged and integrated way.

3 Funding

Funding is secured to implement the community's mental health first aid strategy or plan.

4 Partnerships and collaboration

The community's Mental Health First Aid strategy or plan is implemented through partnerships or collaboration with local organisations, groups and individuals.

5 Community reach and impact

Community reach and impact is being achieved through the delivery of MHFA Australia training across a range of settings or population groups within the community.

6 Review and reflect

A review is undertaken to assess the implementation and impact of MHFA Australia training in the community to inform the community's program moving forward.

How communities are recognised

MHFA Champion Communities are recognised with:



An MHFA Champion Community Certificate of Recognition



An MHFA Champion Community Logo



Public recognition on the MHFA Australia Champion Communities webpage and across a range of MHFA Australia public communication channels.

MHFA Champion Community recognition is valid for 3 years, at which point communities are encouraged to renew their recognition.



"I believe this course should be available to every person in the community."

Course Participant

What role can you play?

The MHFA Champion Communities Program recognises the important roles of Local Council and community members in the development and implementation of their community's Mental Health First Aid training strategy.



Local Council plays a central role in driving and supporting their community's approach to MHFA training and is required to submit or endorse their community's application for recognition.



Community Members such as local MHFA Instructors, organisations or community groups who are interested in planning or implementing Mental Health First Aid training are encouraged to connect with their Local Council to:

- Advocate for Mental Health First Aid training within their local community
- Promote the MHFA Champion Communities Program
- Explore their potential role in partnering or collaborating with Local Council in the implementation of their community's Mental Health First Aid training strategy.



How to apply?

Local Councils or community members (with endorsement from Local Council) can apply at any time, via our website at mhfa.com.au/champion-communities



Contact Mental Health First Aid Australia

The MHFA Australia Community Engagement Team is here to support you at any stage of our community's Mental Health First Aid journey. We invite you to connect with us for more information about the MHFA Champion Communities Program.

community@mhfa.com.au +613 9079 0200

"I gained a better understanding about mental health and how to deal with mental disorders. I will be using my knowledge to help friends, work colleagues, family and community."

Course Participant

