



## **ARAFEMI joins the Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia**

ARAFEMI, a long-standing Victorian provider of mental health services, has become a member organisation of the Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia (MIFA). As the Victorian member, ARAFEMI will work alongside a strong network of organisations in each state and territory to improve the lives of people affected by serious mental illness.

MIFA President, the Hon Rob Knowles AO, said he is delighted to welcome ARAFEMI to MIFA. 'ARAFEMI and the MIFA member organisations have a similar grassroots history and vision for consumers, their families and carers that will strengthen and support our work at a national level. Together we share similar values for integrity, social justice, collaboration and excellence. Their reputation as a state-wide organisation, with strong local ties, alongside their diverse range of services, means they bring a wealth of knowledge to the table. To improve lives, it is essential that we step forward in a way which brings together the work and knowledge that such organisations hold.'

'Whilst we have frequently worked collaboratively to empower consumers and carers, this new relationship utilises and maintains a strong local base in Victoria to add strength to a coordinated national voice and presence that can only assist a better response to mental illness'.

ARAFEMI President, Anne Holland, said that her Board saw great advantages in joining MIFA. 'Like ARAFEMI, MIFA focuses on serious mental illness as it impacts on the whole family. Their member organisations are all long-standing and member-based, with a shared value of ensuring that carers and consumers are key drivers in the design, governance, delivery and evaluation of services. It's a great fit for us, and we look forward to playing our part.'

For further information or enquiries please contact:

MIFA Executive Director - David Meldrum 08 8271 1018

ARAFEMI Executive Director Frances Sanders 03 9810 9300

### *MIFA members:*

**Mental Illness Fellowship of Nth Queensland**

**Mental Illness Fellowship of South Australia**

**Mental Illness Fellowship of Western Australia**

**Mental Illness Fellowship of Queensland**

**Schizophrenia Fellowship of New South Wales**

**Mental Health Carers (ARAFMI) NT**

**ARAFMI Tasmania**

**Mental Health Foundation ACT**

**ARAFEMI Victoria**