



Updates from Growing Minds Australia

Here is a snapshot of what the GMA team has been up to in the start of 2024

GMA Annual Scientific Meeting - Meeting of the Minds 2024

Growing Minds Australia held their first ever 2 day Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) on Thursday 29th February - Friday 1st March in Sydney. It was a wonderful event, filled with interesting, engaging, and thought-provoking content and discussion, that facilitated connections and future collaborations for the Network. Over 55 people attended, and we were lucky enough to have a great mix of diverse researchers, policy makers, practitioners and consumers in child and youth mental health (including chief investigators and a number of EMCRs).

We would first like to thank those who attended, all of whom expressed that there was an excellent mix and balance of presentations in the Agenda including excellent key note presentations by Prof Peter Fonagy (all the way from the UK) and Prof Sharon Goldfeld. Attendees also thought the ASM small group discussions, panel discussion and Q&As facilitated meaningful discussion on topics of importance in child and youth MH, facilitated collaboration and networking, and provided an opportunity for attendees to share their views/thoughts.

Please connect with Dr Talia Carl (Executive Officer of GMA) at talia.carl@sydney.edu.au if you have any further questions on the ASM. We look forward to hosting our next annual in-person Growing Minds Australia ASM in Melbourne in 2025.



Research Spotlight - Child Mental Health Research Priorities Project - Progress Update

The Research Priorities project commenced last year to identify research priorities for clinical trials that reflect the views of stakeholders and to inform the work of the Growing Minds Australia Clinical Trial Network. We have completed the first two rounds of the Delphi survey and Round 3 is underway.

So far our 66 lived experience and professional experts have **endorsed 71 research topics as high or very high** priorities for future clinical trials, out of 390 potential topics.

Once round 3 concludes, a final fourth round will use a resource allocation (value weighting) exercise to refine the list to the highest priorities.

We will be extending the **opportunity for additional stakeholders to participate in the Round 4 resource allocation exercise**. If you would like to participate, please see the [eligibility criteria here](#), and contact Ellie Tsiamis (ellie.tsiamis@unimelb.edu.au) for more information.

Research Spotlight - Pediatric Symptom Checklist-17 (PSC-17) Norming Study

There is currently no single measure of child mental health (MH) and wellbeing that is used across trials by researchers in Australia, which is why measure harmonisation has been identified as a priority area for Growing Minds Australia (GMA). Measure harmonisation aims to standardise our approach to the measurement of child MH across the network. Given the cost and shortcomings of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ), there is a need for free, valid measures, that provide an overall assessment of child wellbeing, that cross age ranges, have clinical cutoffs and normative data, are brief and multi-informant. A measure that is useful for researchers, practitioners and acceptable by parents and other informants like teachers and educators. The Pediatric Symptom Checklist-17 (PSC-17) has been proposed as a suitable measure, albeit one that lacks Australian normative data.

The PSC norming study has just finished collecting data from two panels of parents of preschool aged-children (3-5 years; N=1030) and school-aged children (6-17 years; N=1040). These large, national samples will be used to establish normative data and clinical cut-offs for the Australian population. A second study to be launched this month will recruit a cohort of parents of preschool-aged children and their educators to validate an educator-report version of the Preschool PSC.

We invite the GMA network to partner with us on this measure harmonisation project, to reduce fragmentation in the child MH research landscape, improve research collaboration and comparability of measures and outcomes across studies.

For more information, please contact Rebecca McLean: rebecca.mclean@sydney.edu.au

GMA Early-Mid Career Researcher Network (EMCR)

Growing Minds Australia EMCR network has continued to have regular events for early- and mid-career researchers this year. In February, we held an in-person networking event prior to the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM). The GMA EMCR grant awardees were also announced and presented at the ASM.

In March, the GMA EMCR Network held a webinar with an industry partner, Royal Far West. This successful webinar was presented by Jade Thompson, Lucy Morrison, and Rosemary Evans from Royal Far West. The webinar introduced Royal Far West's child and family health services and research activities. It elicited keen discussions amongst our EMCRs about how to best work with service providers. All GMA EMCR members have access to view past webinars. We are always excited to have new members join the Network!

If you wish to be part of our vibrant EMCR Network and attend our events, first ensure you are signed up as a GMA member. Then, simply email us at growing-minds-australia@sydney.edu.au expressing your interest in joining the EMCR Network.

For more information, see details here: [Early Mid Career Researcher Network - Growing Minds Australia](#)



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