

# ORGANISATION CHARTER



ADVOCATES FOR  
MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS

## How our group is structured

Advocates for Mental Health Access (AMHA) is a citizen-group from Monash University and a member organisation of the [Goat Coalition](#).

Our organisation has two categories of membership: board members and general members. Any natural person may become a general member of AMHA, and annual elections are held to determine the board. To maintain order and unity, two distinct positions exist in the AMHA leadership: the secretary who manages all business and the chairperson who chairs and arranges board meetings. These office-holders are also voted in at the Annual General Meeting.

## How often our group meets

AMHA meets at a minimum of once per week, on Mondays at 6pm for one hour. The entire organisation meets quarterly, with quorum being  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the general members at that time. These all follow a particular agenda, prepared and distributed by the chairperson.

The AGM occurs on January 31st every year.

## How we build consensus within our group

AMHA prides itself on its robust methodology of building consensus.

On the board, all votes relating to mission, vision or values require unanimity while those relating to strategy and tactics can be determined via a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority. Each board member is entitled to one vote.

At organisation-wide meetings, votes relating to any matter require a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority. General members may only vote after a contiguous membership period of 4 months so as to ensure a developed understanding of the organisation.

In all meetings, the secretary takes minutes which are open for all members of AMHA to read. Such transparency is a key ingredient in consensus-building, and provides members the opportunity to adequately digest differences of opinion.

## **Our shared interests as a group**

Advocates for Mental Health Access endeavours to improve mental health services in Australia by increasing the annual number of psychological appointments supported by Medicare from 10 to 18. All of AMHA's members align with this mission.

The organisation's shared interests include:

1. Better access to mental health care for all Australians
2. An increase in the annual number of rebated psychological appointments
3. Destigmatisation of mental health issues

Preventative measures against the development of mental health issues

## **How we overcome conflicts of interest with relevant stakeholders**

To avoid conflicts of interest, AMHA is completely self-funded. No amount of money is permitted to enter the organisation outside of its members' contributions. Annual financial reports prepared by the secretary are openly available to guarantee the organisation's commitment to its mission. Moreover, AMHA remains unwaveringly faithful to its purpose. No conflicting interest with the organisation can have a sway on it, and as such, unity and strength are upheld with the highest priority.

## **Other identifying elements which make our group a strong launchpad for advocacy action compared to others.**

As a member organisation of the Goat Coalition, Advocates for Mental Health Access attain an established advocacy network that aligns with its goals. Founded upon a variety of interests and talents, AMHA optimises its diversity to effectively re-evaluate strategy and tactics in pursuit of its clear, well-defined mission. The organisation is also independently funded and wholeheartedly dedicated to the required policy change. Its bold and clear vision is its strength.