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## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS & FORUMS

Workshops and forums will enhance the conference by providing opportunities for learning and participation not available in the main conference.

TheMHS Procedures: The organisation of workshops, forums and associated conferences will conform to specified requirements.

### Pre-Conference Workshops

A range of workshops may be organised on the pre-conference day. TheMHS Board solely responsible for determining which pre-conference workshops will be held. The number of workshops is determined according to the estimated interest in the topic and the financial viability of each workshop. The Local Committee may wish to suggest topics and speakers for these pre-conference workshops.

It is desirable that workshops endeavour to make a small surplus. A surplus in the pre-conference workshops allows TheMHS to provide bursaries and concessions for consumers during the main 3 day conference.

When a Keynote Speaker is offered a role in a pre-conference workshop, he/she is paid a fee for the Workshop. They are not paid for their keynote address during the conference, therefore the possible workshop payment can be an added incentive to the person to come to the conference.

### Pre-Conference Forums

A number of pre-conference forums are usually arranged that include a Consumer Forum and a Carer Forum. Other possible forums include: Indigenous Peoples, Transcultural Mental Health. Forums are organised if there is enough interest and if there is a local group willing to work with the Local Committee.

### Finances

Forums must aim to be cost neutral to the 3-day conference. A separate budget for each forum and/or workshop is developed by the Conference. Funding is required to support the forum, so the Conference Director, on behalf of the TheMHS Board, applies for such funds. The Consumer Forum and Carer Forum are usually supported by a grant from the Commonwealth Government, which covers costs. The Local Committee may wish to offer suggestions for alternate or additional funding, if necessary. The TheMHS Board reserves the right to make the final decision about the financial and educational viability of a workshop or forum.

### Collaboration or Association with Other Conferences

Other Mental Health Conferences and meetings may wish to be associated with the conference before or after the main 3-day conference. This must be negotiated with the TheMHS Board.