



# Richmond Fellowship Tasmania Inc.

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Worldwide voice hearing support organisation to commence in Tasmania**

Hearing Voices Network Australia, the peer support organisation that provides an environment towards recovery for people who hear distressing voices, will soon be operating in Tasmania under the auspices of Richmond Fellowship Tasmania.

Part of the worldwide Hearing Voices Network that operates in the UK and throughout Europe, Japan, Malaysia, the USA and other states of Australia, Hearing Voices Network Tasmania will commence training of initial support staff and facilitators in November this year with a view to commencing meetings early next year.

Richmond Fellowship Tasmania CEO Patrick Carlisle said the Hearing Voices Network has achieved extremely positive results since its first beginnings in Holland in 1987.

“Hearing voices may not always be a symptom of mental illness,” Mr Carlisle said.

“In many cases, voices can be positive. There have been many famous high-achievers who have contributed very significantly to society who have identified themselves as a voice hearer, including Leonardo da Vinci, Winston Churchill, Ghandi and Anthony Hopkins.

“Participants in Hearing Voices Network groups around the world meet and talk. They share viewpoints and strategies that support each other, and explore ways to work with voices, rather than against.”

Part of the overall aim of Hearing Voices Network is to provide a safe environment to talk about the experience of hearing voices, while exploring coping strategies that ultimately empower and assist the person to gain control over the experience.

Richmond Fellowship Tasmania will undertake to fund the Tasmanian Network initially from its existing resources.

“While the training and establishment of Hearing Voices Network Tasmania will require significant investment, the Board of Richmond Fellowship Tasmania felt it is important for the Tasmanian community that we do not delay due to reasons of funding,” Mr Carlisle said.

Tasmanians interested in further information about Hearing Voices Network Tasmania are asked to contact Richmond Fellowship Tasmania on 6228 3344 or [admin@rftas.org.au](mailto:admin@rftas.org.au)

**ENDS**

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