This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked questions about how MHPN will support networks in 2014-15.

Will MHPN continue to support networks in 2014-15?
Yes. MHPN has been funded by the Department of Health to continue to support networks.

Will MHPN’s professional development webinar program continue?
Yes. MHPN will continue to deliver its webinar program that features case-based panel discussions by leading experts, modelling interdisciplinary practice and collaborative care.

Importantly, participation in MHPN webinars will continue to be free.

How will MHPN support my network in 2014-15?
MHPN will continue to provide all networks with administration support, resources and tools, and access to meeting content, through the support of a dedicated Project Officer.

Networks are required to meet four times per financial year, with the expectation that funding is generally allocated evenly across each meeting.

The level of financial support that MHPN is able to provide to networks has been adjusted.

From 1 July 2014, the following financial support will be available to networks:

> All networks will be eligible for up to $400 to support meetings during the year (i.e. $100 per meeting, over four meetings).

> Those networks that have more than 15 attendees at each meeting may be eligible for an additional grant of up to $75 per meeting, over four meetings.

> Those networks located in a rural or remote area (defined by ASGC-RA 3-5) may also be eligible for an additional grant of up to $75 per meeting, over four meetings.

Note: the above funding is exclusive of GST.

What if my network meets more than four times a year?
MHPN will support networks to meet more than four times per year, however the available financial support will remain as outlined above.

For example if a network meets six times per year and has over 15 attendees at meetings, each meeting would be eligible for a budget of approximately $116 (ex GST).

What if my network wants to allocate its grant differently?
MHPN understands that some networks may want to spread their annual funding in a slightly different way, for example to allow for payment to a particular guest speaker at a meeting.

If this applies to your network, please contact your Project Officer to discuss before making any arrangements.
What will happen after 30 June 2015?
Like all current mental health programs, MHPN’s future direction will be considered as part of the National Mental Health Commission’s National Review of Mental Health Services and Programmes.
MHPN has provided a submission to the Mental Health Commission proposing the future project direction to further support interdisciplinary practice and collaborative mental health care.
MHPN’s submission has indicated that as well as continuing to support local networks and its online professional development webinar program, an increased emphasis is proposed in the following areas:

- mental health of older Australians
- integrating mental and physical health care
- preparing emerging practitioners to work in collaborative care.

The Commission is due to report to the Federal Government by 30 November. We will keep you informed as more information becomes available through this process.

Will the Psychiatrist Guest Speaker Initiative continue?
The Psychiatrist Guest Speaker Initiative will cease as at 30 June 2014. MHPN will continue to work with coordinators to secure psychiatrist guest speakers for network meetings, however any payment to the psychiatrist will have to be made from the network’s annual grant.

There are a number of alternative ways to introduce a psychiatrist perspective into a network meeting. For example, almost all MHPN webinars include a presentation by a leading psychiatrist. You may like to consider watching this section of the webinar during a meeting and discussing the issues raised.

What if my network has already booked a psychiatrist guest speaker for next financial year?
If you have already booked a psychiatrist guest speaker for a meeting in 2014-15, any agreed payment to the speaker will be honoured. The payment will not be deducted from your network’s 2014-15 grant.

What if my network wants to spend more money than MHPN can provide?
A number of networks have been in a situation where the group has decided to perhaps meet more often, share a meal or undertake training together that has cost more than the network’s budget. In these situations some networks have asked members to make a co-payment towards covering expenses. There are also other ways to try to stretch your network’s budget – contact your project officer if you’d like to explore some ideas.

What can I do to help ensure MHPN continues?
One of the most compelling arguments for the continuation of the MHPN initiative will be provided by strong, ongoing practitioner participation in network meetings.

Your role as a network coordinator is pivotal in ensuring your network continues to meet regularly to discuss the issues that are important in your local community. So that MHPN can report on all activity, we ask that you continue to aim to meet at least four times a year and provide us with the attendance data following each meeting.

Any questions?
If you have any questions regarding how the changes will affect your network, please contact your Project Officer to discuss further.