**New Board members to drive mental health research and system transformation**

The Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing (the Collaborative Centre) is expanding the expertise of its Board with the appointments of Dr David Fenn and Associate Professor Bridget Hamilton.

They join ten diverse and experienced Board members who bring their lived and living experience leadership, research excellence and clinical expertise to lead transformative change across Victoria’s mental health and wellbeing system.

The pair bring decades of experience in the mental health sector, including clinical and research expertise and a deep commitment to lived experience perspectives and leadership.

Dr David Fenn is currently the Medical Director of Royal Melbourne Hospital Mental Health Services and was previously the Medical Director at North Western Mental Health.

David is a trained psychiatrist who has worked in public inpatient and community roles and the private sector for 30 years. He is committed to working with lived experience representatives and other partners to transform the mental health and wellbeing system.

Associate Professor Bridget Hamilton has over 30 years’ experience as a registered nurse working as a mental health specialist practitioner. Bridget has worked as a manager, educator and researcher in the public mental health sector.

Director of the Centre for Mental Health Nursing at the University of Melbourne since 2016, Bridget was awarded the Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council (VMIAC) Ally of the Year Award in 2018 for her support for lived experience workforces and upholding human rights.

The appointments of David and Bridget recognise the Collaborative Centre’s partnership with the Royal Melbourne Hospital and the University of Melbourne, which are leading a consortium of 18 health and wellbeing organisations to drive high-quality mental health and wellbeing research and better treatment, care and support for Victorians.

Collaborative Centre Board Chair Terry Laidler said the appointments of David and Bridget will support the next phase of the Collaborative Centre’s growth, including its partnerships with services, community organisations and researchers, and the implementation of its forthcoming Research Strategy and Lived Experience Strategy.

“We’re delighted to welcome David and Bridget to the Collaborative Centre Board. With their extensive leadership experience and commitment to transforming how mental health and wellbeing services and supports are delivered in Victoria, I know they will make an invaluable contribution in steering the exciting work that is underway at the Collaborative Centre,” Terry said.

For more information about the Collaborative Centre’s work, including Board member biographies, visit the [Collaborative Centre website](https://www.vic.gov.au/victorian-collaborative-centre).