NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER ALLIANCE

30 October 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alliance announces interim Board leadership appointments

The National Mental Health Consumer Alliance (the Alliance) Board has appointed Vrinda Edan as Interim Chairperson and Giancarlo de Vera as Interim Deputy Chairperson. These appointments follow Leilani Darwin's resignation from the role of Interim Chairperson.

The Board thanks Leilani Darwin for serving as Interim Chairperson over the past three months. She will remain on the Board as an Independent Director and will continue to bring First Nations lived experience leadership to the Board of Australia's national mental health consumer peak body.

Vrinda, who has been on the Alliance's Board since November 2024, brings experience across diverse health service areas and stakeholder engagement. Vrinda's leadership is characterised by a strong social justice perspective. As a former health professional, her work is informed by personal lived experience and expertise. Vrinda is also currently CEO of VMIAC – the Victorian peak body for mental health consumers.

The Board is also grateful to Giancarlo de Vera for stepping into the role of Interim Deputy Chairperson. Giancarlo is a respected intersectional leader and human rights advocate recognised for their impact in the disability, racial justice and LGBTIQA+ sectors. Giancarlo sits on various government and social service boards and currently holds governance and leadership roles with Australian Lawyers for Human Rights, the Disabled Australian Lawyers Association, the Australian Centre for Disability Law and the City of Sydney. Giancarlo first joined the Alliance's Board in November 2024 and is currently also CEO of BEING – Mental Health Consumers, the NSW peak body for mental health consumers.

Recruitment for a new Chairperson for the Alliance will commence shortly.

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Left to right:
Giancarlo de Vera - Deputy Interim Chairperson, Vrinda Edan - Interim Chairperson, Priscilla Brice – CEO for the Alliance.

