**IAIR Member’s Bulletin**

**Mental Health training programs launched for insolvency professions in Australia**

In December 2018, the government bodies which administer Australia’s insolvency systems teamed up with the Australian Restructuring Insolvency and Turnaround Association (ARITA) to develop and support new mental health training programs for practitioners who support Australians impacted by personal bankruptcy or the insolvency of a company.

The Australian Financial Security Authority (AFSA), which regulates Australia’s personal insolvency system, and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), which regulates Australia’s corporate insolvency system, have worked with ARITA to create a program to educate insolvency professionals on the connection between insolvency and mental health and how they can better engage with people experiencing financial distress.

The Insolvency Mental Health Awareness Program, to be rolled out over the next 12 months, has a dual focus: understanding the mental health of people accessing bankruptcy and insolvency services and addressing possible mental health implications for professionals providing these services.

The training programs, developed in conjunction with Mental Health First Aid Australia, will range from a [90 minute overview session](https://mhfa.com.au/courses/elearning/41965), which is intended for senior leaders in the insolvency profession, to more detailed [online](https://mhfa.com.au/courses/elearning/41618) and face-to-face courses for those who would benefit from more intensive training and knowledge. Completion of the training will count towards the continuing professional development.

Please feel free to complete the overview program – while the context is Australian, the themes are of general application. You may also wish to reach out to your local [Mental Health First Aid (in 25 countries)](http://www.mhfainternational.org/international-mhfa-programs.html).

For further information see [AFSA - Insolvency Mental Health Awareness Program](https://www.afsa.gov.au/insolvency/i-am-practitioner/insolvency-mental-health-awareness-program-imhap).

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