

**Primary Mental Health Care Initiative  
in South Australia**

**SA Divisions  
of General  
Practice Inc**



*Everything depends upon relationship*

*after J L Moreno*

Patricia Smith  
Jane Westley

SA Divisions of General Practice

# Before May budget 2001

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## **Pre PMHCI funding**

- Isolated projects
- Lack of sustainability
- Loss of corporate knowledge
- Fragmentation

## **PMHCI funding**

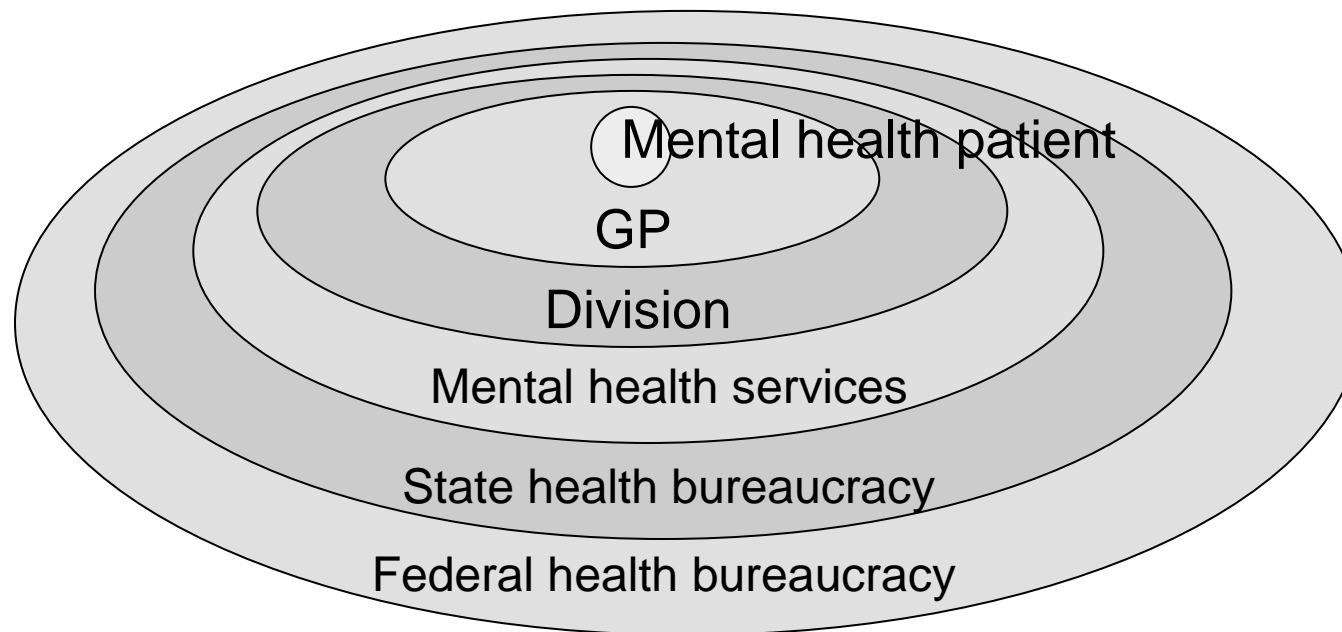
- Partial buy-in from 9 divisions
- Only 2 divisions with MH program officers
- Relationships created
  - MH network
  - other stakeholders

*but no ongoing funding commitment*

# Endemic issues in mental health system

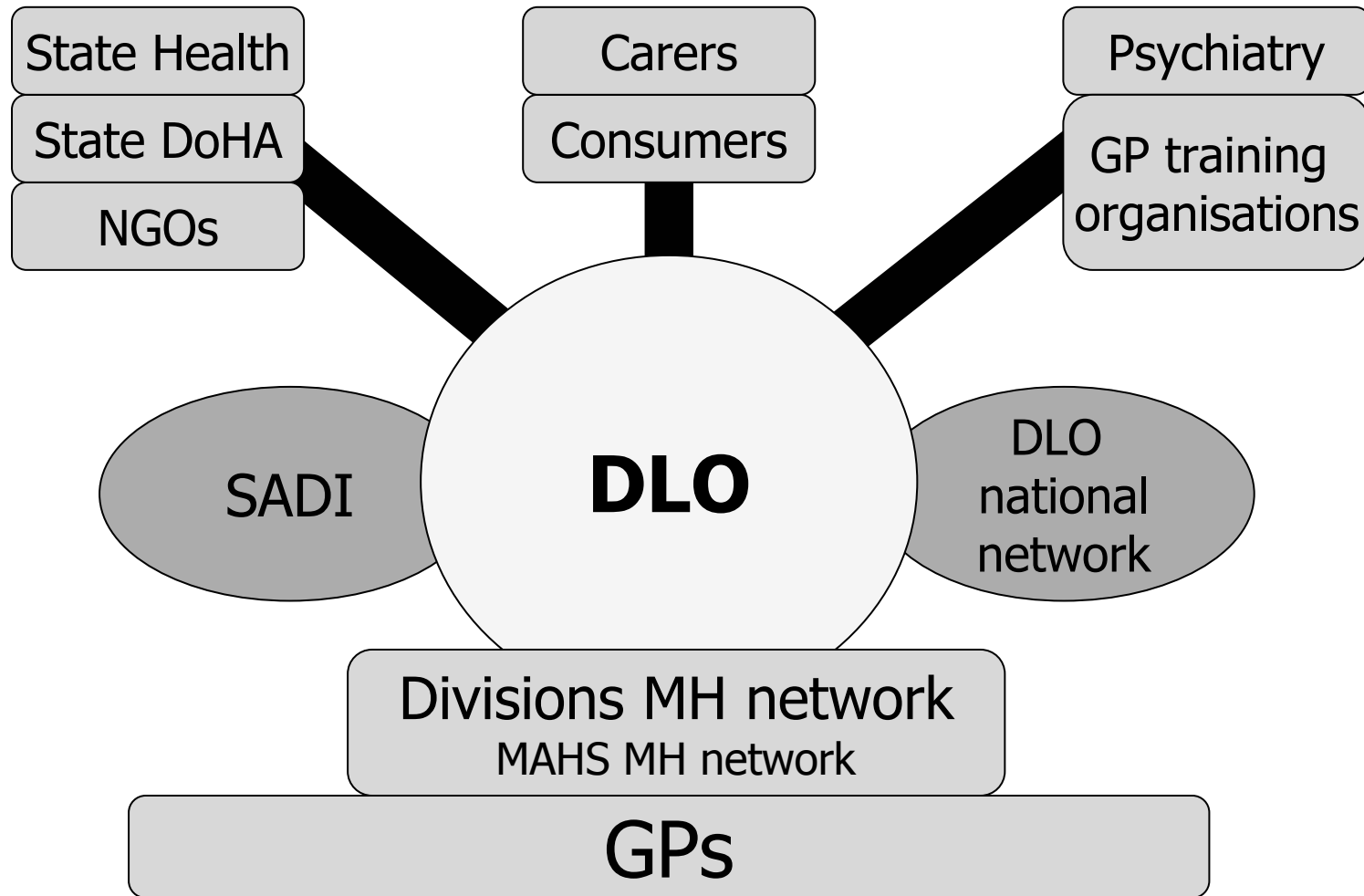
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- Isolation
- Fragmentation
- Loss of corporate knowledge
- Loss of credibility



SA Divisions of General Practice

# Building sustained relationships



# Outcomes of relationship building

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## Divisions Mental Health Network

- Full participation
- Support and information sharing

## Statewide collaboration in GP education & training

- 14% urban GPs level 1 trained
- 29% rural GPs level 1 trained

## Proven model for replication

- MAHS mental health workers network
- Allied mental health workers

# System-wide impact

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## Relationship building

- Increased mental health focus
- Increased commitment
- Capacity development

## Culture shift to spontaneity and innovation

- GP peer support
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- National Suicide Prevention Strategy

## Ongoing Challenges

- Fragmentation
- Isolation
- Loss of corporate knowledge
- Loss of division credibility

# The Future Priorities

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- Partnerships with State mental health reforms
- Promotion, Prevention & Early Intervention
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders
- Migrants and refugees