

Integrating Clinical Psychology into Melanoma Care: Insights and Resources

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Background

Australia is the melanoma capital of the world, with an age-standardised incidence rate over ten times that of the global average.

People with melanoma report substantial unmet supportive care needs, with access to a psychologist identified as the highest need¹.

To meet this need, the Melanoma Institute Australia (MIA) established a dedicated Clinical Psychology Service (CPS).

Method

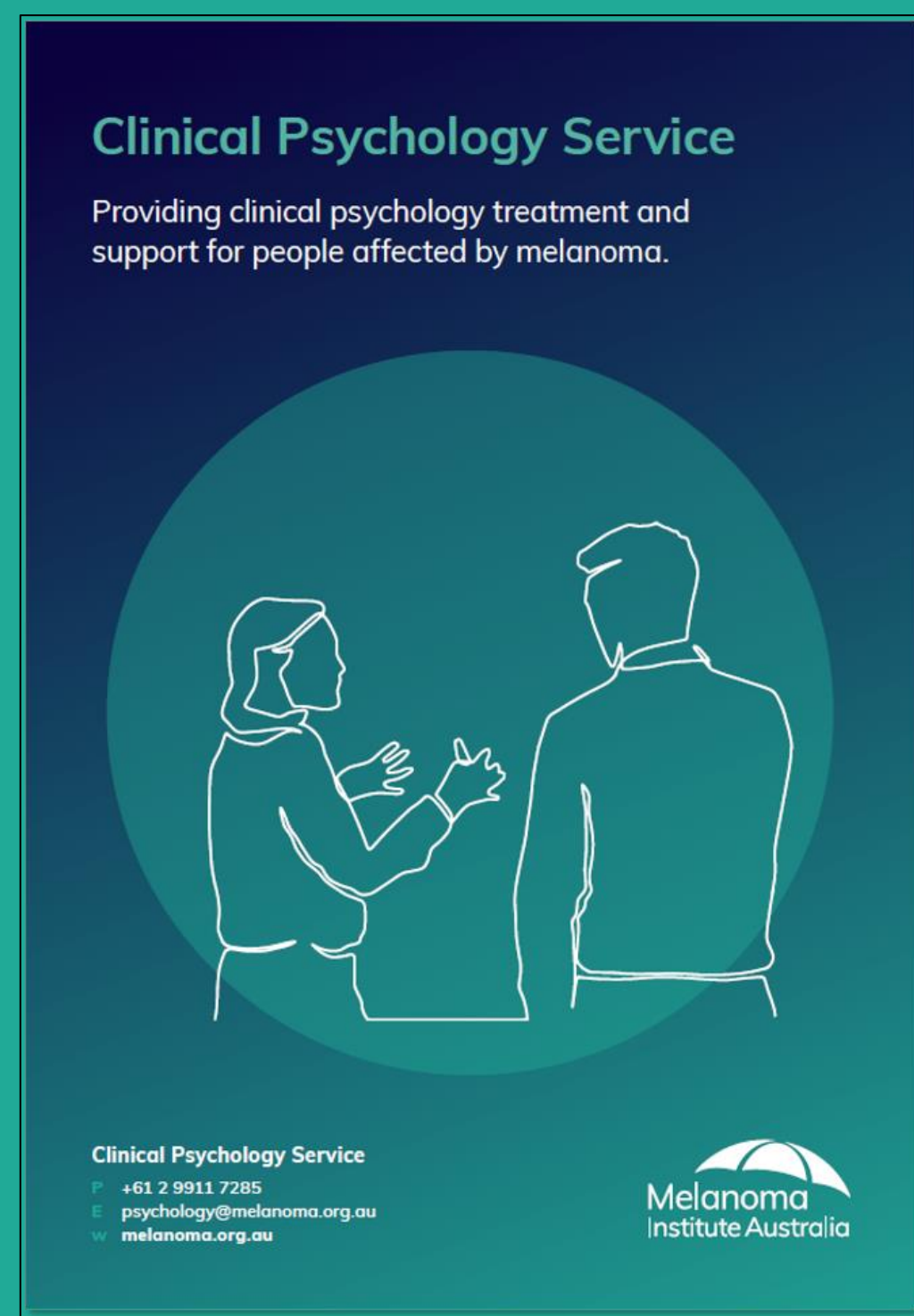
The CPS was integrated under MIA's three pillars of clinical care, education and research.

Our aim is to share/disseminate melanoma specific insights and resources with other clinicians.

Results

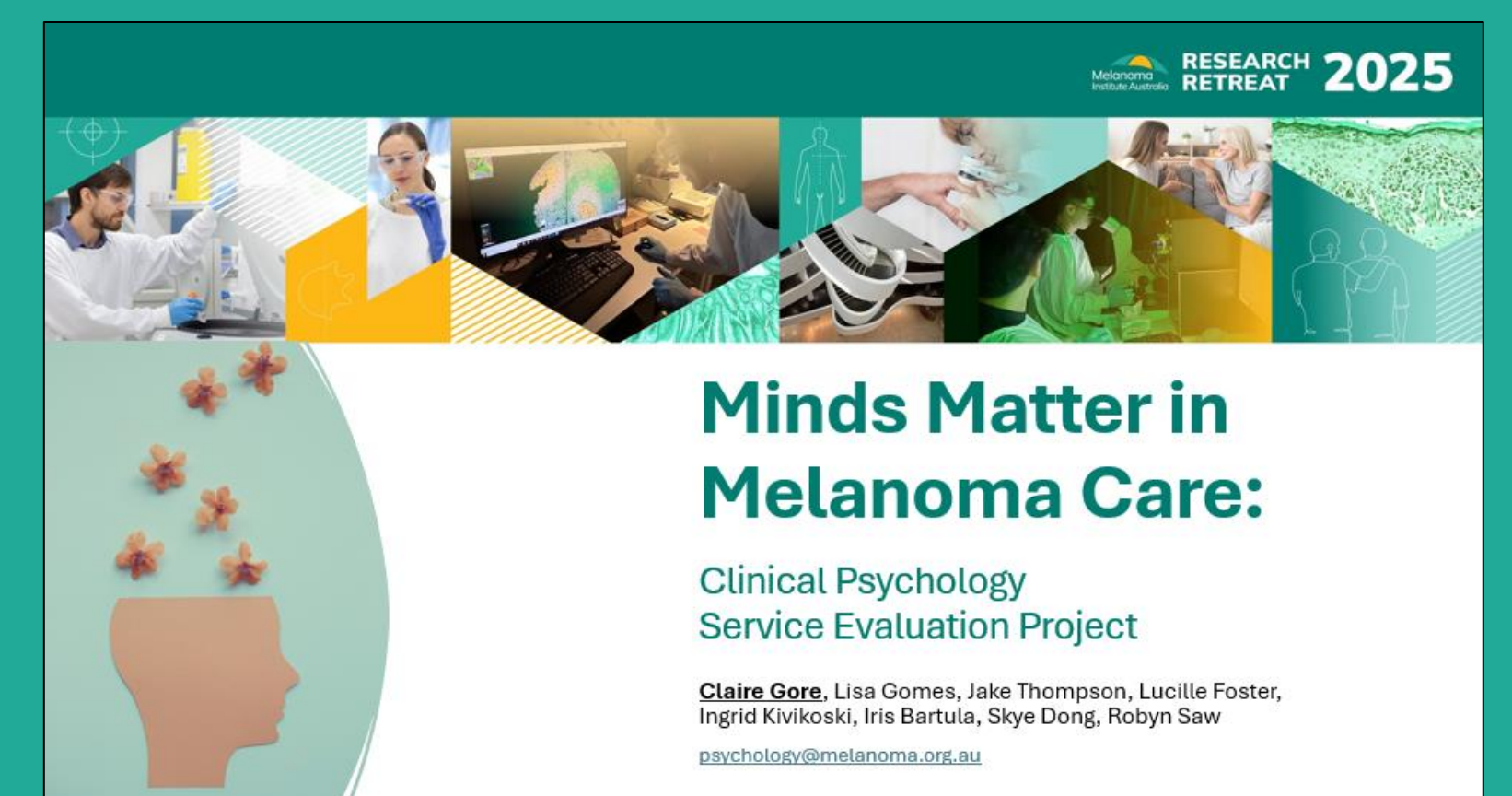
Clinical

- Direct psychology support for patients with melanoma
- Psychology input at weekly MDT meetings



Research

- The CPS is undertaking a service evaluation study to assess outcomes and patient satisfaction with the psychology service.



Education

- Consumer fact sheets and webinars on supportive care topics
- Contribution to professional learning modules, videos and podcasts
- Co-development of MIA patient guides and clinical practice guidelines



FIND OUT MORE AT
melanoma.org.au/for-patients/patient-support



DOWNLOAD RESOURCES AND FIND OUT MORE AT
melanoma.org.au/for-patients/patient-information



Significance

- At least 30% of people diagnosed with melanoma report psychological distress indicative of the need for clinical intervention².
- Informational support and supportive care interventions reduce distress among melanoma patients.
- Clinicians can utilise the resources available on the MIA website to provide supportive care interventions for patients in their own practice.

REFERENCES

1. Insight Economics, Melanoma Institute Australia, Melanoma Patients Australia. State of the nation: A report into melanoma – A national health priority 2022
2. Kasparian NA. Psychological stress and melanoma: are we meeting our patients' psychological needs? Clin Dermatol. 2013; 31(1):41–6.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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