

THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION'S PEER WORKFORCE PROJECT  
COMMUNIQUE – STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING – 13 July 2022

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The Mental Health Commission's (MHC) Lived Experience Peer Workforce Project (Project) aims to guide the development of a thriving state-wide consumer, family and carer Lived Experience (Peer) Workforce across the mental health (including suicide prevention) and alcohol and other drug sectors. This Project supports strategic directions outlined in the WA State Priorities Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs 2020 – 2024 and the Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Workforce Strategic Framework 2020-2025.

To manage the development and delivery of the Project, a Steering Committee comprising of members representing portfolios across the sectors has been established. The Steering Committee provides the strategic oversight and guidance to the Project. The Steering Committee, co-chaired by Margaret Doherty, representing the Family Carer/Community mental health portfolio and David McMaster, Director, System Development (MHC), last met on 13 July 2022. This communique has been developed to provide all stakeholders with information and outcomes from that meeting.

The aim of the 13 July meeting was to discuss Steering Committee feedback regarding the draft WA Lived Experience (LE) Peer Framework (Framework), clarify the process to progress the Framework through its final stages and confirm the progress of the supporting resources.

The Framework is currently seeking support in principle with the Mental Health Executive Committee (MHEC) and the Community Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Council (CMC). The Framework aims to be completed by the end of August 2022.

The design team Two21 have thoughtfully and cleverly ensured the Framework design reflects the strengths of the LE Workforces. The Framework design by has been positively received by the Steering Committee. The Project Team sought the Steering Committee's guidance on diagram that reflects the different approaches by Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces and tradition workforces with regards to people impacted by trauma, adverse life event and social determinants.

Discussion took place regarding the filming of interviews for the dedicated Lived Experience (Peer) workforce's webpage that will host the Framework, supporting resources and other relevant content. The Steering Committee suggested participants, content and provided input for the location of filming.

The Flesch–Kincaid scale was used to determine the readability of the Framework; the result was higher than preferred for a broad audience, however this has been offset by an increased use of diagrams, tables and graphics. It was agreed that the readability may need to ebb and flow depending the section and intended audience. It was noted the supporting resources particularly the practical toolkits and handbooks will provide understanding and accessibility to balance the reading level.

An update was provided on the Framework's supporting resources including Lived Experience (Peer) Worker Handbook, First Nations Lived Experience Worker Guide and Toolkit for Organisational Actions. It was noted that the Project Team will work in partnership with subject matter experts to ensure these resources are culturally appropriate and fit for purpose.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on 18 August 2022. More information about the Project including Terms of Reference documents can be found on the MHC Project page [here](#).

Please feel free to distribute the Communique to your wider networks.

For further information or if you have any queries, please contact Louise Howe 08 6553 0425 or email [engagement@mhc.wa.gov.au](mailto:engagement@mhc.wa.gov.au).