

THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION'S PEER WORKFORCE PROJECT
COMMUNIQUE – STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING – 18 August 2022

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 significant other 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 significant other/Community mental health portfolio and David McMaster, Director, System Development (MHC), last met on 18 August 2022. This communique has been developed to provide all stakeholders with information and outcomes from that meeting.

The aim of the 18 August meeting was to update Steering Committee on the progress of the Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces Framework (Framework), dedicated website and peer videos. The Steering Committee's advice was sought regarding the Framework's guiding resources and the role of the Steering Committee going forward.

The Framework is currently with the Minister for Mental Health, the Hon Amber Jade Sanderson, MLA for final endorsement. Once endorsed the Framework will be launched across the mental health, alcohol and other drug and suicide prevention sectors.

The Lived Experience (Peer) workforces' webpage that will host the Framework, supporting resources and other relevant content, is currently under construction with the landing page is now live at www.livedexperienceworkforces.com.au. The filming of interviews for the webpage will take place in late August at the State Library with a wide variety of stakeholders. The purpose of the videos is to:

- Confirm State Government and sector commitment and support to building thriving LE (Peer) workforces.
- Promote the LE (Peer) Workforces Framework and contemporary understandings.
- Outline the positive impact of the Lived Experience Workforces on individuals, services and wider community.
- Provide an understanding of the different LE (Peer) workforces and examples of LE (Peer) roles.

The Steering Committee provided advice regarding approaches and partnerships for developing the Lived Experience (Peer) Worker Handbook, First Nations Lived Experience Worker Guide and Toolkit for Organisational Actions.

The Project Team will draft an outline regarding the development of the supporting resources and webpage content. This will clarify the role and structure of the Steering Committee in the immediate future.

The next Steering Committee meeting has yet to be confirmed. 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.