

THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION'S LIVED EXPERIENCE PEER WORKFORCE PROJECT  
COMMUNIQUE – STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING # 16 – 18 April 2023

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The Mental Health Commission's (Commission) 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 includes the development of the [Western Australian Lived Experience \(Peer\) Workforces Framework](#) (Framework). 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. As the Framework has now been delivered, the Project is focusing on the implementation of the Framework recommendations and further initiatives to grow and support the Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces.

To manage the development and delivery of the Project, a Steering Committee comprising of members representing portfolios across the sectors was established in 2021. 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, last met on 14 February 2023. This communique has been developed to provide all stakeholders with information and outcomes from that meeting.

The aim of the April meeting was to update the Steering Committee on the Project. This included discussions around the progression of supporting resources such as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience Worker Guide (Guide), Organisational Toolkit and website and proposed changes to the Terms of Reference (ToR) and membership as the Project progresses in the implementation phase.

Members were provided with an update on the Lived Experience (Peer) Coordinators being implemented across the Health Service Providers (HSPs). To support Organisational Readiness across HSPs, the Commission is holding, and continues to hold, a number of Peer Work Positive organisational readiness sessions.

The Commission's Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces website (including the Organisational Toolkit) has been through various revision and reviews and is now undertaking final stages of governance and approvals. Once finalised, the site will be publicised across the community.

The Working Group established to support the development of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience Worker Guide will hold their first workshop 18 April 2023. A co-learning / update session with a wider stakeholder group (including the Lived Experience leadership involved in the writing of the Framework) has been arranged for the 4 May 2023. The session is designed to share and discuss the outcomes of the Working Groups workshop, status of the Guide to date and the progression plan and is designed as a two-way discussion / co-learning opportunity to ensure wider stakeholder input and support consistency with the core Framework.

High level discussions were undertaken in relation to changes to the ToR, noting that further work to update this will be undertaken out of session. Key changes include expanding the scope as the project moves to the implementation of the Framework.

Guidance was sought from the Steering Committee in relation to a training/skills matrix the project team is developing to support HSP Peer Coordinators. Out of session workshops are proposed for the end of May and again in June to progress this work.

More information about the Project, including Terms of Reference documents, can be found on the Commission's Project page [here](#).

Please feel free to distribute this Communique to your wider networks. For further information or if you have any queries, please contact the Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces Development team on 08 6553 0299 or email [LivedExperienceWorkforces@mhc.wa.gov.au](mailto:LivedExperienceWorkforces@mhc.wa.gov.au).