

Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Lived Experience Advisory Group Communiqué

1 May 2025

The Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) supports the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Joint Leadership Group (JLG) by providing advice grounded in lived experience and human rights, reflecting the voices of consumers, family, significant others and community with a lived experience of mental health, and/or alcohol and other drug issues, harms and service use across the service systems.

This Communiqué provides a summary of the key items tabled at the LEAG meeting for the specific purpose of providing advice to the JLG.

Western Australian Suicide Prevention Framework 2025 – 2030

The LEAG was invited to provide advice regarding the Western Australian (WA) Suicide Prevention Framework 2025-2030 (the Framework). The new Framework will align with the Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy 2025-2030 (currently in development); the National Suicide Prevention Strategy 2025-2035; and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy 2025-2030. Members were advised that strengthening social and emotional wellbeing for Aboriginal people is being embedded throughout the draft Framework. Members were advised that public consultation on the framework is planned for later in 2025.

A summary of key issues discussed by Members, which informs advice to the JLG include:

- The importance of language and definitions within the Framework.
- The need to consider a number of additional specific at-risk groups within the Framework.
- The importance of distinguishing between mental health and suicide prevention approaches.
- The importance of consulting with a diverse range of voices, including Aboriginal people across all communities, people living in regional and remote areas and those with lived and living experience.
- Key considerations for implementation including:
 - Community capacity building initiatives based on the needs of communities.
 - Alternative community models of care.
 - Interagency and cross sector collaboration to address systemic factors/structural and environmental determinants, e.g. homelessness, poverty.
 - Place-based postvention, particularly in rural and remote areas.
 - Integration of Lived Experience (Peer) workforce into service models.
 - Strengthened approaches to improve accessibility and affordability.

Health Service Provider Alcohol and Other Drugs Services and Supports

The LEAG was invited to provide advice regarding priorities for addressing stigma and discrimination as part of strengthening alcohol and other drugs service provision within Health Service Providers (HSPs).

A summary of key issues discussed by Members, which informs advice to the JLG include:

- The impact of stigma and discrimination experienced by many individuals with a lived or living experience of alcohol and other drug use.
- The need for a comprehensive approach to workforce development, including working with training institutions to embed addiction-related content into curricula; increase capacity for clinical placements to improve future workforce readiness; and the integration of trauma-informed and family inclusive practice and principles into training content.
- Current gaps in service including:
 - Dual diagnosis treatment options.
 - Capacity and capability of mental health services to treat people with co-occurring alcohol and other drug issues.
 - Youth withdrawal beds.
 - Medically supervised withdrawal services.

You may distribute this Communiqué to your wider networks. Communiqués and other relevant documents for the JLG, CAG and LEAG are available on the [Mental Health Commission website](#).

- Priorities for implementation, including:
 - Access / eligibility criteria to reduce barriers to care.
 - Contemporary pharmacotherapy guidelines.
 - Increasing the addiction medicine capacity of the wider health care system.
 - Diverse workforce models including Lived Experience (Peer) Workers and nurse practitioners.
 - Enhancing public information / promotion about the availability of services.

The next LEAG meeting is scheduled for 7 August 2025.