



# Lived Experience (Peer) Workforce Project Steering Committee Communique #29

The Mental Health Commission's (Commission) Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces Project (Project) aims to guide the development of thriving state-wide consumer, family, and significant other Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces across the mental health, suicide prevention and alcohol and other drug sectors. This includes the implementation of the [Western Australian Lived Experience \(Peer\) Workforces Framework](#).

This Project supports strategic directions outlined in documents such as the Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Workforce Strategic Framework 2020-2025. The Steering Committee provides strategic oversight and guidance to the Project. The Steering Committee is co-chaired by Margaret Doherty, representing the Family Significant Other/Community mental health, alcohol and other drug and forensic portfolios, and Director Strategic Policy and Planning, Mental Health Commission.

This Communique is to provide all stakeholders with information and outcomes from the meeting held on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

## **Group Reflection Session (occurs every 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to reiterate relational ways of working)**

The facilitators led discussions to connect members and invited reflection on the relational ways in which the members perform their roles within the group. Members also reflected on the Steering Committee's priorities for 2025. Noted priorities included developing a workplan aligned with the Steering Committee's Terms of Reference, growing allyship, education on the difference between advocacy work and Lived Experience work, reconnecting the Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces, partnerships with external stakeholders, and ensuring appropriate onboarding process for new members.

## **Values Based Recruitment (VBR) Package**

The Steering Committee were provided with a written and verbal update of the VBR package project, which is being developed by a consortium including a range of specialist consultants and led by Caelan Consulting. The package consists of seven individual booklets. It was agreed a new Sub Committee needs to be established to review the booklets in detail. Several members expressed interest in joining the Sub Committee. An email will be sent to all members to seek further involvement.

## **Lived Experience (Peer) Supervision Document**

Members were provided with copies of the Sub Committee developed 'Lived Experience (Peer) Supervision' document, which provides an overview of peer supervision, its purpose and benefits, and the role and responsibilities of all stakeholders. Members were encouraged to share the finalised document with their networks. The full document is available [here](#).

## **Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy 2025-30 - Consultation**

An update was provided to members on the consultation undertaken across Western Australia including face to face, online, regional, and metropolitan workshops held across the state, as well as targeted engagement, verbal, written and survey responses. It was noted members were encouraged to engage with the process. The meeting provided members with further opportunity to identify priorities as they relate to the Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces and areas of need across the mental health, suicide prevention, and alcohol and other drugs sectors.

## **Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2025-30**

Members were provided with a link to the Commission's discussion paper and an overview of the consultation process, which includes planned regional and metro workshops, survey options, email, dedicated phone line, online sessions, and targeted engagements with diverse agencies. It is anticipated that the first draft of the strategy will be developed before the end of 2024. Member discussed coming together as a group to collectively review the document.

## **Current Projects**

Members were updated on the progress/completion of several peer-based projects including the Peer Work Positives sessions (delivered by CoMHWA), progression of the Lived Experience Website, Same Page speaker program (delivered by Wellrounded), the eight-week Re-Orienting to Peer Work course and associated digital resources (delivered by MHM2), and two tailored peer supervision courses (facilitated separately by CoMHWA and MHM2).

More information about the project and initiatives underway can be found on the [Commission's website](#). If you have any queries, please email the Commission at [LivedExperienceWorkforces@mhc.wa.gov.au](mailto:LivedExperienceWorkforces@mhc.wa.gov.au).

