



Lived Experience (Peer) Workforce Project Steering Committee Communique #27

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, 17th September 2024.

Peer Principles

Committee members centred discussions around the peer principle of *Diversity*, encouraging individuals to reflect on and share their understanding and experience of diversity. The group agreed to prioritise diverse perspectives in future meetings.

Lived Experience Advisory Group

Strategic Policy and Planning Director updated the Committee on the progress of the Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) including the Expression of Interest (EOI) process, noting a further update will be provided at the next meeting. Approximately 40 participants attended the Q&A session outlining details of the EOI.

Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces Handbook

Feedback from the subgroup indicates the draft has become more general than intended. It has agreed to refocus the work on specific LE areas including supervision, boundaries, and psychosocial hazards. Further discussion will take place with the supplier drafting the Handbook in late September.

Website launch

The Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces website has been updated and is in the review stage prior to going live. Consideration is underway to determine ongoing review of the website content.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience-led Peer Workforces Guide

The Guide has received positive feedback since its launch on 13th August 2024. It was presented to the MHS Conference in Canberra, with interest from counterparts in Australia and New Zealand.

Current Projects

Members were updated on several projects including Peer Work Positive sessions, outcomes of Mind Australia Peer Work Program, development of Values-Based Recruitment package, Intentional Peer Support and Reorientation to Peer Work programs, and the Lived Experience Speaker pilot program.

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.

