

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

27 August 2026

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 drugs issues, harms and service use across the service systems.

This Communiqué provides a summary of the key items tabled at the LEAG meeting of 27 August 2026 for the specific purpose of providing advice to the JLG.

Mental Health Act 2014 Compliance Action Plan: Training and Education

Members were invited to provide advice regarding resources and training associated with the *Mental Health Act 2014* (Act).

Noting dedicated time will be included on the agenda for the next LEAG meeting to facilitate more detailed discussion and advice on this matter, the LEAG provided the following preliminary advice:

- Lived Experience expertise should be embedded in the design, review and delivery of Act related training and education resources.
- Training should support a shared understanding of rights, responsibilities and lived experience perspectives across all participant groups, including clinicians, peer workers, consumers and carers.
- Training resources should be accessible, practical and responsive to the diverse needs of learners, including consideration of different learning styles and literacy levels.
- Training and education should be practical, rights-focused and support greater understanding of lived experience perspectives across the mental health system.

Alcohol and Other Drugs Framework

Members were invited to provide advice regarding the development of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Framework.

A summary of key topics discussed by members, which informs advice to the JLG, included:

- The importance of meaningful lived experience engagement throughout the development and implementation of the Framework.
- Ensuring privacy, confidentiality and stigma reduction remain key considerations in service planning, consultation and delivery.
- Recognising and supporting Lived Experience Consumer, Aboriginal and peer workforces, including through workforce development, retention and sustainability.
- Greater alignment between alcohol and other drugs and mental health systems and workforces, particularly for people experiencing co-occurring needs.
- Strengthening responses to alcohol and other drugs use by recognising and responding to other intersections that can accompany use (e.g. mental health and suicidal distress and within other settings such as justice, custodial and forensic settings).
- Addressing structural and systemic barriers that impact service access and outcomes for people experiencing alcohol and other drug harms.
- Improving service accessibility, navigation and coordinated support, particularly for people living in regional, rural and remote communities.
- Recognising the importance of harm minimisation, community-led approaches and relationship-based models of care that promote wellbeing and recovery.
- Recognising the distinction of regional, rural, remote in relation to lived experience of service provision and other community considerations.

The next LEAG meeting is scheduled for 26 November 2026.