



## **Expressions of Interest**

### **Consumer and Family/Carer Representative**

#### **Mental Health Court Diversion and Support Program**

The Mental Health Commission (MHC) believes people with mental health problems and/or mental illness, their families and carers should be engaged as genuine partners in advising and leading mental health developments at individual, community and service system levels. This will further enable the MHC to develop a modern and effective mental health system for Western Australia.

We are looking for people with a lived experience of a mental illness or caring for someone who has; and either personal or professional experience in the criminal justice system to represent a consumer and family/carers perspective on the Start Court SQRM (Safety Quality Risk Management) & Business Committee.

#### **What is the Start Court?**

The Mental Health Court Diversion and Support Program (the Program) is the State Government's flagship forensic mental health initiative. The Program has been operating on pilot funding since 2013, and aims to secure this in the future.

The Program has two components:

- The Start Court, a specialised mental health list for adults; and
- Links, a mental health court support service for children who appear before the Perth Children's Court.

The Start Court (adult program) operates within the Perth Magistrates Court. It offers mentally ill offenders a program that combines access to mental health services with regular appearances before a dedicated Magistrate. Successful engagement in the Start Court program can lead to the dismissal of charges or a reduced sanction (including in some cases the avoidance of imprisonment).

#### **The SQRM & Business Committee**

The SQRM & Business Committee addresses all matters that relate to quality improvement, risk and safety along with any general business matters which affect the day to day running of the Start Court Program. The SQRM meeting takes place at 2.30pm – 3.30pm on the 1st Thursday of each month.

#### **Consumer Representation**

We are seeking Consumer and Family/Carer Representatives on The SQRM & Business Committee. In addition to committee responsibilities, the representatives may be involved in conducting program exit interviews. Following exit from the program and in accordance with the Consent Form signed by the participant, Start Court program Consumer and Family Representatives contact participants to facilitate either a telephone, in person or online exit survey questionnaire. This may also include conducting exit interviews with a family member or carer of a participant where appropriate consent has also been given.

The role will be flexible in terms of the amount of time involved and the way that input is provided (e.g. via email/phone/in meetings depending on the person's preference). As a guide, the role will likely involve an average of 2-3 hours of work per month. This includes both meeting attendance and preparation time.



### **Selection Criteria**

We are looking for people who have:

- Personal experience of mental illness or caring for someone who has; and
- Personal and/or professional experience with the criminal justice system.

Preference will be given to those with a personal experience of the criminal justice system.

Qualities and attributes that we are looking for include:

- Enthusiasm and a positive attitude.
- Ability to bring a consumer and family/carer perspective to all discussions and decision-making.
- Sufficient confidence to communicate effectively with program stakeholders.
- Capacity to think objectively and be capable of making reasoned judgements about policy and planning issues.
- An understanding of the rehabilitation and recovery paradigm and the value of consumer participation.
- An understanding of matters that affect people with mental health problems and their families/carers including marginalisation issues, stigma and discrimination.
- Well-developed interpersonal skills including the ability to work as part of a team and to maintain good working relationships.

### **Consumers and Family/ Carers Representatives serving on the Committee can expect:**

1. To be equal members of a group that is respectful, open and operates with integrity.
2. To be reimbursed for their participation and out of pocket expenses.
3. To contribute to a program that is making a positive difference for people in need
4. To be supported in their role on the committee and have access to training through the consumer and family/carer advocacy organisations.
5. To meet interesting people and have fun!

### **Selection Process**

Candidates will be shortlisted based on their written responses. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to meet with two MHC staff (one with a lived experience) and a staff member from the Start Court Team for an informal discussion. This also provides the opportunity for applicants to ask questions about the Start Court and the Committee. If applicable, referees will be contacted via phone or email (see below). The process should take approximately three weeks from the closing date.

### **Referees**

The application form gives candidates the option of nominating a referee. If you have served on a Committee previously, it may be helpful to nominate the Chair of the Committee as your referee. Alternatively, you may wish to nominate a manager or other person you have worked with.

### **Remuneration**

Remuneration will be provided by the MHC. This can be achieved in two ways:

- Through arrangement with an existing employer, whereby the employer would pay the individual for time spent working on the court diversion program at his or her usual rate, and would then be reimbursed by the MHC; or
- Participation payment is offered for members on committees and groups as per the MHC's Consumer, Family and Community Paid Partnership Policy. The current rate is \$70 per hour



- (or part thereof) for a minimum of three hours. This payment and timeframe also includes any preparation time for the meeting as well as reasonable travel expenses.

### **Criminal records screening**

The MHC actively encourages the involvement of individuals who have past personal involvement with the criminal justice system. However, persons with a record of serious and/or very recent offending may not be considered.

In view of these guidelines, recommended applicants will be asked to undertake a confidential criminal record check. The MHC will pay for the criminal records check.

**For more information please contact:** Margaret Slattery, Manager Diversion Programs on (08) 6553 0627, or [margaret.slattery@mhc.wa.gov.au](mailto:margaret.slattery@mhc.wa.gov.au).

**To apply:** Please complete the attached application form and email to [engagement@mhc.wa.gov.au](mailto:engagement@mhc.wa.gov.au) **9am Friday, 13 July 2018.**