

The Mental Health Commission's (MHC) Peer Workforce Project (Project) aims to guide the development of a thriving state-wide consumer, family and carer Lived Experience (Peer) Workforce across the mental health (including suicide prevention) and alcohol and other drug sectors. This Project supports strategic directions outlined in the [WA State Priorities Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs 2020 – 2024](#) and [Workforce Strategic Framework](#).

To manage the development and delivery of the Project, a Steering Committee comprising of members representing portfolios across the sectors has been established. The Steering Committee will provide the strategic oversight and guidance to the Project. The Steering Committee co-chaired by John Brearley, Assistant Director System Engagement, (MHC) and Margaret Doherty, representing the Family Carer/Community portfolio, met for the first time on 22 July 2021.

This communique has been developed to provide all stakeholders with information and outcomes from this meeting.

With the intent of endorsement, the Steering Committee reviewed the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the:

- Project;
- Steering Committee Terms of Reference;
- Peer Practice Expert Group (PPEG); and
- Sector Reference Group (SRG) .

The Steering Committee provided feedback and suggested changes to these documents and it was agreed that amendments and endorsement would occur out of session. Once endorsed, the TOR documents will be made available on the MHC website through a dedicated Project page. The Steering Committee also reviewed and endorsed the Project Consultation Plan with only minor changes being made.

The Steering Committee discussed and suggested additional membership to ensure the Project was inclusive and reflected the needs of the mental health and alcohol and other drug sector. This will be actioned out of session by the MHC Project Team in consultation with the Steering Committee Co-Chairs. A full list of members will be available on the dedicated Project page as well as in the next communique.

The Steering Committee meetings are scheduled monthly with the next meeting on Thursday, 19 August 2021. More information about the Project, including the governance, the two advisory groups (Peer Practice Expert Group and a Sector Reference Group), communiques and TOR can be found on the MHC Project page [here](#).

Please feel free to distribute this Communique to your wider networks.

For further information or if you have any queries, please contact Louise Howe 08 6553 0600 or email engagement@mhc.wa.gov.au .