

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 the Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Workforce Strategic Framework 2020-2025.

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 19 August meeting 2021 (chaired by Margaret Doherty and Katherine Davis as proxy for John Brearley).

As outlined in the Project Consultation Plan (endorsed at the previous Steering Committee meeting), a series of Workshops to support the development of the Project are being undertaken. With the intent of endorsement, the Steering Committee discussed the Workshops, focusing on:

- Purpose of the Workshops;
- Involvement of Peer Practice Expert Group (PPEG) and Sector Reference Group (SRG) in the Workshops;
- Workshop Facilitation;
- Identifying Participants; and
- Timing of Workshops.

The Steering Committee provided feedback and suggestions to progress the Workshops including identifying potential external facilitators suitable for this aspect of the Project. Actions regarding the Workshop preparations will be completed by the MHC project team and a Workshop facilitator will be selected based on the criteria outlined by the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee also welcomed new members representing the Aboriginal Health Control Council and Alternatives to Suicide program. The full list of members is included in the Steering Committee Terms of Reference.

The Steering Committee endorsed the Projects Terms of Reference with minor amendments that strengthened and clarified the Project's intent agreed.

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled on Thursday 23 September 2021. More information about the project, including governance structure, meeting communiques and the Project, Steering Committee, PPEG and SRG Terms of Reference documents can be found on the MHC Project page [here](#).

Please feel free to distribute the 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.