

THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION'S PEER WORKFORCE PROJECT
COMMUNIQUE – STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING - 27 October 2021

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 the 27 October 2021 meeting which was co-chaired by Sara Walsh A/Assistant Director System Engagement, (MHC) and Margaret Doherty.

Tracey Wilson, Director, Niall Rhatigan, Director and Eve River Certificate IV Mental Health Peer Work Student (work placement) from [wellrounded](#) presented an overview of the proposed pre-design workshops. Feedback was provided to the consultants about terminology, definitions, questions and focus of the workshops including measures to ensure meaningful representation from carer/family members, the alcohol and other drug sector, Aboriginal people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and peer workers and services from regional areas.

The Steering Committee noted that separate pre-design workshops for consumers, carer/family members, peer workers and service providers were to be held throughout November with an all stakeholder gallery style co-designed workshop to be held at the end of November.

The Steering Committee reflected on the Project's principles: Safety, Authenticity, Humanity, Equity and Diversity (co-designed Principles from the [Working Together Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Engagement Framework](#)) and affirmed that the proposed workshop design aligns with the Principles.

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled on Thursday 25 November 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.