



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Carer Representative

Statutory Review of the Mental Health Act Steering Group

The Mental Health Commission (MHC) believes that to achieve improvements in mental health, alcohol and other drug (AOD) outcomes, it is essential to involve all stakeholders. We recognise the valuable contribution that consumers, families, and carers make to the planning, implementation, delivery and evaluation of mental health and AOD programs and services.

The MHC is currently undertaking the Statutory Review of the Mental Health Act (2014) (the Act) on behalf of the Minister for Mental Health. The Statutory Review is an opportunity to review the operation and effectiveness of the Act – what is working well, and where evidence based improvements could be made to the legislation to advance the human rights of persons with mental illness, their families and carers.

A Steering Group was established in early 2021 to support and guide the Review. The MHC is looking for one Carer Representative to join the Steering Group from February 2022. Carers or family members who have a lived or living experience of caring for someone who has received treatment under the Mental Health Act (2014) are encouraged to apply for this role.

Information about the Review process is available at [Mental Health Act \(2014\) Statutory Review 2021-2022 \(mhc.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.mhc.wa.gov.au/2021-2022)

The membership of the Steering Group, along with the Terms of Reference and Guiding Principles are provided as an Attachment.

The Carer representative on the Steering Group is required to:

- Perform the role and functions of Steering Group members as set out in the Attachment;
- Have knowledge and experience related to treatment and care under mental health legislation, including caring for an individual who has experience of involuntary admission and/or treatment;
- Have good understanding of matters that affect people with mental health issues and matters that affect their families, carers and community, including those of marginalisation, stigma and discrimination. As well, have an understanding of the rehabilitation and recovery paradigm, and the value of consumer, family, carer and community participation;
- Have demonstrated well-developed interpersonal skills, including the ability to give constructive input, maintain good working relationships with stakeholders, listen objectively, negotiate and make informed judgments; and
- Have knowledge, skills and/or experience with participation on committees or other decision-making processes, familiarity with and input into the development of policy and procedure documents.

The Carer representative on the Steering Group is responsible for:

Contributing their best efforts to achieve the objectives of the Steering Group by:

- Liaising and networking with people with mental illness and their families;
- Reading papers before meetings and coming prepared to contribute fully and constructively at meetings;
- Bringing a problem-solving attitude to the team, and supporting a positive team culture;

- Taking responsibility for actions assigned; and
- Following the Terms of Reference of the Steering Group (see Attachment), Steering Group Ways of Working, Public Sector [Code of Ethics](#), and the Mental Health Commission's [Code of Conduct](#).

The Carer representative on the Steering Group can expect to be:

- An equal member of a group that is respectful, open and operates with integrity;
- Reimbursed for their participation and out of pocket expenses;
- Have access to timely communication of working documents; and
- Supported in their role, e.g. have access to relevant training through the consumer and family/carer advocacy organisations.

Selection process

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to meet with Lauren Atkinson, Senior Project Manager and two external panel members for an informal discussion and for applicants to clarify details regarding the Steering Group.

The roles will be subject to criminal records screening checks, at the MHC's cost. However, a conviction will not necessarily exclude the applicant from the selection process.

Payment and reimbursement

Participation payment and reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses will be offered to consumer and family/carer members, in line with the [Consumer, Family, Carer and Community Paid Participation Policy \(mhc.wa.gov.au\)](#)

The paid participation rate at the advisor tier is \$75 per hour for a minimum of 3 hours.

Out-of-pocket expenses can be reimbursed but must be negotiated and approved by the MHC before expenses are incurred.

For more information please contact:

Lauren Atkinson, Senior Project Manager on (08) 6553 0260 lauren.atkinson@mhc.wa.gov.au or Sarah Morrison, Senior Policy Officer on (08) 6553 0538 or sarah.morrison@mhc.wa.gov.au

To apply: Please complete the attached application form and return it using the following means, by **4:00pm Wednesday 12 January 2021:**

- Email: statutoryreview@mhc.wa.gov.au
- Post:
The Mental Health Commission
GPO Box X2299
Perth Business Centre
WA, 6847
Attention: Lauren Atkinson
- Hand delivery (marked "Attention: Lauren Atkinson"):
Level 1, Workzone, 1 Nash Street, Perth.
(Our offices are adjacent to the Mclver train station.)

Your application will be seen by the selection panel only. Sensitive personal information located in consumer, family and carer EOI document, application forms and criminal records screening checks (including emails with attachments) are stored electronically in a confidential, secure folder with strictly limited access, in line with the *State Records Act 2000*.