

THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION'S PEER WORKFORCE PROJECT  
COMMUNIQUE – STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING – 17 December 2021

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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 the 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 17 December 2021 meeting which was co-chaired by Kate Jarvis-Spinks A/Assistant Director System Engagement, (MHC) and Margaret Doherty.

The Steering Committee reflected on the co-designed 'All of Stakeholder' workshop held on 30 November 2021 at the Claisebrook Design Studio. The workshop saw 160 consumers, family/carers, students, peer workers and service providers engage in the interactive gallery style workshop over the course of the day. The previous Minister for Mental Health, Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, attended the workshop informally and spoke with many of the participants. Workshop evaluations showed participants rated the workshop experience an average of 8.2 out of 10.

The Steering Committee considered the work required to progress the development of a Framework now that the November stakeholder workshops are completed and ahead of presenting a draft of the Lived Experience (Peer) Framework to the Mental Health Executive Committee in mid-March. With this in mind, the second phase of the Project will move from discussions to deliverables, from advisory groups to working groups. A Lived Experience Working Group (LEWG) and a Services Working Group (SWG) will be initiated to progress the work that will be required for the Framework. Nominations for these groups will be sought from the current Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) and Sector Reference Group (SRG).

Additionally the Steering Committee agreed to hold a discussion group in mid-January to ensure the WA Framework will be congruent with the [National Lived Experience \(Peer\) Workforce Development Guidelines](#) (released on 1 December 2020). The discussion group aims to identify what's missing and what can be strengthened from a WA mental health *and* alcohol and other drug context

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled on Tuesday 8 February 2022. More information about the Project including 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](mailto:engagement@mhc.wa.gov.au).