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# Expressions of Interest

**Accommodation and Support Strategy Advisory Committee**

Involving all stakeholders in the Mental Health Commission’s (MHC) work is essential if improvements in mental health, alcohol and other drug outcomes are to be achieved. The MHC recognises the valuable contribution that consumers, families, carers and community members make to the planning, implementation, delivery and evaluation of mental health and alcohol and other drug programs and services.

It is recognised that appropriate accommodation and support for people with mental health and/or alcohol and other drug problems is critical to maintaining a person’s wellbeing. Many people with mental health and/or alcohol and other drug problems are unable to afford secure housing or make their own housing choices and are often at increased risk of homelessness.

The development of a system-wide multi-agency housing strategy to address the needs of individuals with mental health and/or alcohol and other drug problems has been identified as a priority in the Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025: Better Choices. Better Lives (the Plan). The MHC’s Accommodation and Support Strategy is currently in development and has been informed by extensive community consultation. The Accommodation and Support Strategy aims to establish a framework that will guide how accommodation and support for people experiencing mental health and/or alcohol and other drug problems will be planned and developed over the next 10 years. The Accommodation and Support Strategy will align with contemporary
evidence-based accommodation and support models that are known to effectively support a person’s recovery.

The MHC is seeking two consumers and two family members and/or carers with a lived experience of mental illness and/or alcohol and other drug problems and experience accessing accommodation and support for the MHC Accommodation and Support Strategy Advisory Committee.

The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to guide the MHC in defining the key focus areas that the Accommodation and Support Strategy will address.

The Advisory Committee will include representatives from state government departments, community housing providers and peak community mental health and alcohol and other drug agencies. It is proposed that the committee will meet four times. Meetings will be held monthly at the MHC, with the first meeting scheduled for late March 2017 (date to be confirmed). Regional, rural and remote committee members will access the meeting via teleconference.

In line with standard Government processes, this role may be subject to a criminal records screening check, however a conviction does not exclude the applicant from the selection process. The MHC can initiate and pay for the criminal records screening if necessary.

**Selection Criteria for this Advisory Committee:**

1. Be a consumer, family member or significant other, who has been able to integrate their experiences of mental health and/or alcohol and other drug problems into their lives, retain value from their experience and have wisdom to share with others.
2. Experience and understanding of accommodation and support issues for people with mental health and/or alcohol and other drug problems, their families and carers.
3. Knowledge, skills and/or experience of developing sector wide frameworks, policies or other documents and/or participation on high level strategic committees or other decision making processes.
4. Well-developed interpersonal skills including the ability to give constructive input, maintain good working relationships with stakeholders, listen objectively, negotiate and make reasoned judgements. Demonstrated ability to use these skills to achieve results.

**Desirable Criteria:**

1. Knowledge of a variety of mental health and alcohol and other drug problems, accommodation and support programs and models.

**Responsibilities of committee members:**

To contribute their best effort to achieving the objectives of the Advisory Committee by:

* Contributing fully and constructively at meetings;
* Bringing a problem solving attitude to the committee and contributing to a positive culture;
* Being reliable, dependable and taking responsibility for actions assigned; and
* Following the Terms of Reference of the committee (still in draft form), Public Sector Code of Ethics and the MHC’s Code of Conduct.

**Consumers, Families, Carers can expect:**

* To be equal members of a group that is respectful, open and operates with integrity.
* To be reimbursed for their participation.
* Timely communication of working documents.
* To be supported in their role on the Advisory Committee.

**Selection Process:**

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to meet with two MHC staff members for an informal discussion. This discussion provides the opportunity to confirm applicants’ suitability and for applicants to ask questions about the Advisory Committee. The MHC is expecting to notify those who have been shortlisted to meet with MHC staff to discuss their suitability by
8 February 2017. Informal discussions are scheduled for 13 February 2017.

**Payment and Reimbursement:**

Participation payment is offered for members on committees and groups as per the MHC’s Consumer, Family and Community Paid Partnership Policy. The current rate is $70 per hour (or part thereof) for a minimum of three hours. This payment and timeframe also includes any preparation time for the meeting as well as reasonable travel expenses.

**For more information please contact:**

Allison Barrett (08) 6553 0600 or email allison.barrett@mhc.wa.gov.au

**To apply:**

Please complete the attached application form with a statement of up to two pages addressing each of the selection criteria and return, marked ‘**confidential**’ by:

9:00am, Monday 6 February 2017 via:

* Email to **ConsumerRep@mhc.wa.gov.au**
* Fax to 6553 0400, marked: Allison Barrett, Stakeholder Liaison Officer
* Post to:

Mental Health Commission

Attention: Allison Barrett

GPO Box X2299

Perth Business Centre

WA 6847

* Hand deliver (Attention: Allison Barrett) to Reception, Level 1, Workzone, 1 Nash Street, Perth. The MHC is adjacent to McIver Station