

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 23 September 2021 meeting.

The Steering Committee were introduced to and endorsed [wellrounded](http://www.wellrounded.life) (www.wellrounded.life) as the selected consultants engaged by the MHC to undertake the co design work of the Project. Under the guidance and directions of the Steering Committee, the scope of wellrounded's engagement includes the facilitation of workshops, capture and analysis of outcomes and drafting of the Lived Experience (Peer) Workforce Framework.

The MHC Project team, wellrounded and selected members of the Steering Committee and affiliated advisory groups will meet out of session to ensure cultural safety and considerations of rural, regional and remote participants.

The Steering Committee also welcomed further new members from the Aboriginal Health Control Council and from the Health Service Provider portfolio.

The Steering Committee noted that this would be Co-Chair John Brearley's last meeting, due to leaving the MHC for another opportunity. Pending recruitment to replace John, for an interim period, the co-chair role will be filled by the acting Assistant Director, Katherine Davis.

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled on Thursday 21 October 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.