

THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION'S LIVED EXPERIENCE PEER WORKFORCE PROJECT
COMMUNIQUE – STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING – 29 September 2022

The Mental Health Commission's (MHC) Lived Experience 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 was established in 2021. The Steering Committee provides the strategic oversight and guidance to the Project. The Steering Committee, co-chaired by Margaret Doherty, representing the Family Carer/Community mental health portfolio and David McMaster, Director, System Development (MHC), last met on 29 September 2022. This communique has been developed to provide all stakeholders with information and outcomes from that meeting.

The aim of the 29 September meeting was to update Steering Committee on the progress of the finalisation and launch of Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces Framework (Framework), dedicated website, peer videos and progress of guiding resources. The Steering Committee's advice was sought regarding the Organisational Toolkit and the role of the Steering Committee going forward.

The Framework is currently with the Minister for Mental Health, the Honourable Amber Jade Sanderson for final endorsement. Once endorsed, the Framework will be launched across the mental health, alcohol and other drug and suicide prevention sectors. Tentative arrangements were discussed for an in-person and online event with the Minister launching the Framework, in mid to late October.

The Lived Experience (Peer) workforces' webpage that will host the Framework, supporting resources and other relevant content, is currently under construction with all content loaded and will go live shortly at www.livedexperienceworkforces.com.au. The filming of 18 interviews about the LE (Peer) workforce for the webpage took place in late August at the State Library with a wide variety of stakeholders. Final editing is currently underway.

The Steering Committee provided advice regarding sector engagement specifically for the Toolkit for Organisational Actions. CoMHW and Ruah will lead the development of this important Toolkit to be completed in late November. The First Nations Lived Experience Worker Guide (led by Aboriginal Organisation) and Lived Experience (Peer) Worker Handbook will be developed in early 2023.

A partnership with the National Mental Health Commission to co-present at the WA Mental Health Conference in November will show case the state and national LE (Peer) workforces frameworks and how they work together.

The Steering Committee agreed to continue to meet in its current form till the end of 2022, then review the purpose of the work ahead in developing the guiding resources, supporting the Framework's recommendation actions and providing strategic oversight to build the capacity of the LE (Peer) workforces in WA.

A dedicated Implementation Team is being established at the Mental Health Commission and within the WA Country Health Service as a starting point to embed and support the LE (Peer) workforces across the sectors.

The next Steering Committee meeting has yet to be confirmed. 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 Sara Walsh 08 6553 0299 or email sara.walsh@mhc.wa.gov.au.

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