

THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION'S LIVED EXPERIENCE PEER WORKFORCES PROJECT  
COMMUNIQUE – STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING – 12 December 2022

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The Mental Health Commission's Lived Experience Peer Workforces Project (Project) aims to guide the development of thriving state-wide consumer, family, and carer Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces across the mental health, 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 /Significant Other/Community mental health portfolio and David McMaster, Director, System Development (The Commission), last met on 12 December 2022. This communique has been developed to provide all stakeholders with information and outcomes from that meeting.

The aim of the 12 December meeting was to update Steering Committee members on the progress of the Organisational Toolkit, Website and other supporting resources including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience (Peer) Worker Guide and Peer worker Handbook. Additionally, the meeting aimed to discuss the role of the Steering Committee going forward with respect to the implementation of the Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces Framework (Framework) and other related initiatives being undertaken or proposed by the Commission.

The Organisational Toolkit will be linked to the three main components of the Framework: Leadership and Culture; Policies and Planning; and Development. It was also outlined that the Toolkit would form part of the dedicated Lived Experience Workforces website rather than as a standalone hard copy document, with key sections released as they are finalised. This will allow the content to stay contemporary and be updated and expanded upon as required. It is anticipated that the website will be updated as we continue into and post the new year.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience Centre (Black Dog Institute) has been engaged to develop the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience (Peer) Worker Guide. Auntie Vicki McKenna from Broome will be leading this work. A proposal has been brought forward to create a working group of 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders from their network focusing on WA residents. Further stakeholder consultations will also be undertaken as this work progresses.

Funding has been secured for the development of the Lived Experience (Peer) Worker Handbook, with scoping expected early in the new year.

There are still many components and initiatives underway to complement the Framework. It was discussed and recommended, that this was an opportunity to embed a Lived Experience Leadership Group within the Commission. In the meantime, it was agreed by the Steering Committee, that they would continue in its current form, with at least one more session in Q1 2023, with the intent to review and operate until a new group is formed in its place.

Margaret Doherty, Co-Chair, put forward a motion that the Commission, as a matter of urgency, establish a Lived Experience Leadership Group with a key role as providing advice to the Commission on key projects and matters. This was unanimously seconded by the attending, non-Commission members (who due to conflict of interest were silent in the motion).

The next Steering Committee meeting has yet to be confirmed but is planned for February 2023.

More information about the Project including Terms of Reference documents can be found on the Mental Health Commission's 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](mailto:sara.walsh@mhc.wa.gov.au).