

THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION'S LIVED EXPERIENCE PEER WORKFORCE PROJECT  
COMMUNIQUE – STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING # 18 – 25 July 2023

---

The Mental Health Commission's (Commission) Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces Project (Project) aims to guide the development of thriving state-wide consumer, family and significant other Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces across the mental health, suicide prevention and alcohol and other drug sectors. This includes the development of the [Western Australian Lived Experience \(Peer\) Workforces Framework](#) (Framework). 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. As the Framework has now been delivered, the Project is focusing on the implementation of the Framework recommendations and further initiatives to grow and support the Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces.

To manage the development and delivery of the Project, a Steering Committee comprising of members representing portfolios and perspectives 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 Sara Walsh, A/Director System Development, last met on 25 July 2023. This communique has been developed to provide all stakeholders with information and outcomes from that meeting.

The aim of the July meeting was to update the Steering Committee on the individual aspects of the Project and the endorsement of the amended Terms of Reference (ToR), which was endorsed in this session.

Members were provided with an update on the Lived Experience (Peer) Coordinator roles being implemented across the Health Service Providers (HSP's).

Members were also provided the agenda of the planned 3 August 2023 Lived Experience (Peer) Coordinator training workshop which will embed the values of lived experience and follow the principles of the [Working Together: Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Engagement Framework](#). The workshop aims to identify training and skills required for these Coordinator roles and develop a shared understanding of the roles across participants as well as provide the HSP's with small actions they can take away to progress the implementation of this work.

The Commission's Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces website (including the Organisational Toolkit) is now undergoing further development to improve the user experience. Once finalised, the site will be publicised across the community.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience Guide working group has finished their work and is preparing their final draft to share with the Commission for review. Following this, the Guide will be provided to Steering Committee members for endorsement. The Guide will then be developed into a published document by an Aboriginal led design agency for a national online launch later this year.

Preliminary consultation to inform the development of a Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces Handbook is underway. Finalisation of the project scope will continue with the Steering Committee in due course to guide the rest of the work.

Members were informed that the Project team are currently working with the Commission's System Performance team to develop a program logic model and begin looking at Monitoring and Engagement requirements to support the progression of the Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces.

More information about the Project, including Terms of Reference documents, can be found on the Commission's Project page [here](#).

Please feel free to distribute this Communique to your wider networks. For further information or if you have any queries, please contact the Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces Development team on 08 6553 0299 or email [LivedExperienceWorkforces@mhc.wa.gov.au](mailto:LivedExperienceWorkforces@mhc.wa.gov.au).