

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 implementation of the [Western Australian Lived Experience \(Peer\) Workforces 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.

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, with membership expanded in September 2023 to ensure that relevant stakeholders for the next stages of the Project are represented. The Steering Committee provides strategic oversight and guidance to the Project. The Steering Committee, co-chaired by Margaret Doherty, representing the Family Significant Other/Community mental health, alcohol and other drug and forensic portfolios and Sharnae Zanotti, A/Director System Governance and Stakeholder Engagement, met on 7 November 2023. This communique is to provide all stakeholders with information and outcomes from the meeting.

An important part of the November meeting was to highlight the principle of safety for the steering committee as with a new membership this is an important aspect of creating a “safe enough” place for robust conversations. Key meeting topics were to update the Steering Committee on the individual aspects of the Project and bring members' attention to additional work including the development of a Capabilities Framework (led by the Department of Health), changes within the Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces Development team (merging with the Stakeholder Engagement team) and exploration of a supervision approach. Members were also informed of work underway to review the MHC's Paid Participation Policy.

Members were provided with a brief update on the Lived Experience (Peer) Coordinator roles being implemented across the State via Health Service Providers, including a discussion on the intent of the development of an online Community of Practice portal to support these roles as they progress their work. Further updates to members will be provided out of session.

The final draft of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience Guide is anticipated in November. The MHC's presentation in partnership with Black Dog Institute's Indigenous Lived Experience Centre at the Mental Health Rural and Remote Conference garnered encouraging feedback. The is anticipated in early 2024.

Members were updated on the progress of the Peer Work Positive training sessions being delivered. There are still sessions with a mix of face to face, online, full length and shorter executive sessions on offer which are free and open to the community.

Members were informed of work underway to develop a Capabilities Framework and the inclusion of the Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces within this document (it comprises of allied health and Aboriginal Mental Health workforces). Members agreed in the benefit of this group providing expertise to the work as it is progressed. Members will be further engaged out of session.

A discussion regarding supervision took place and will be explored further with members of the Steering Committee.

More information about the Project can be found on the [Commission's website](#). For further information or if you have any queries, please email the Mental Health Commission:  
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