

**MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
LIVED EXPERIENCE PEER WORKFORCE PROJECT COMMUNIQUE
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING # 22 – 13 February 2024**

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 13 February 2024. This communique is to provide all stakeholders with information and outcomes from the meeting.

Steering Committee members centred discussions around the peer principle of Connection and set intentions for how it can be upheld and reflected throughout the meeting discussions.

Project updates were provided, which included:

- Lived Experience Peer Workforce Coordinators recruitment has progressed with nine of the thirteen of the positions engaged. Work is underway to fill the remaining vacant roles.
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience Led Peer Workforce Guide is currently undergoing the review process.
- The Commonwealth funded Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work Scholarships are being administered by Marr Mooditj (coordinated by the Commission). This round of the course commenced on 5 February 2024 and will run for six months with placement after this time. The six-month course is split into five parts and is taught on campus.
- A short demonstration of the Commission's draft Lived Experience Workforces website was provided. Members were taken through the development to date to show the new look website using the previously developed content. The team is working closely with the Commission's Strategic Communications team. Sections one to three were presented in the meeting and distributed out of session for review by the Steering Committee before the next meeting.
- The Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces Handbook (a supporting resource for the Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces Framework) and draft scope was discussed.
- A closed Steering Committee supervision sub-working group meeting is planned to progress the approach to peer based supervision.

More information about the Project can be found on the [Commission's website](#). For any queries, please email the Mental Health Commission at LivedExperienceWorkforces@mhc.wa.gov.au