

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. 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.

Peer principles

Steering Committee members centred discussions around the peer principle of mutuality and equitable sharing of power. “Not do ‘to’ you but do ‘with’ you” it was discussed in this context on how governance is about mutual obligation and self-transformation for everyone.

Project update

The Commission provided an update to inform the Steering Committee on the progress of a variety of projects including:

- Lived Experience Peer Workforces Coordinators' recruitment has progressed with East Metropolitan Health Service recruiting to their role permanently; two positions within WA Country Health Services are being recruited to; and North Metropolitan Health Services are advertising the role across two functions.
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience led Peer Workforce Guide design is being finalised before being provided to the Commission.
- A series of training initiatives are being developed and/or implemented over the next six months including an Orientation to Peer Work, Peer Work Positives (PWP) training, delivery of Peer specific (Intentional Peer Support and Mind Australia's Peer Work Program), and Peer Supervision training.
- It is anticipated that the draft Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces Handbook will be delivered by July 2024.
- The Steering Committee is continuing to be provided with sections of the website and organisational toolkit for feedback.
- The first Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces Supervision Working Group Meeting was held on 20 February 2024 to look at the next steps to support the Statewide Lived Experience (Peer) Supervision Mechanisms and establish quality Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces Supervision.

Lived Experience (Peer) Workforces mapping

The Steering Committee was presented with a Lived Experience Workforces map of positions ranging from entry level Lived Experience roles to Executive Director level for feedback. The table addresses peer capabilities, peer values, leadership, education, and training and more. The aim of this resource will be to support conversations for future Lived Experience (Peer) workforces roles within the mental health, alcohol and other drugs, and suicide prevention sectors and help standardise roles within public health services.

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