



Lived Experience Advisory Group Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Lived Experience Advisory Group?

The Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) is an advisory body to the Mental Health, Wellbeing, and Alcohol and Other Drugs Joint Leadership Group (JLG). The LEAG will collectively provide advice that is independent, evidence-informed, practical and achievable. This advice will relate to the strategic reform priorities and objectives that the JLG is accountable for and will be grounded in lived experiences and human rights.

The LEAG will draw on the Lived Experience expertise of its members to ensure the voices of consumers, family, significant others and community with a living or lived experience and /or suicidal crisis, are embedded in relevant work being undertaken across the mental health, alcohol and other drugs, and suicide prevention sectors.

What sort of work will the Lived Experience Advisory Group be involved in?

The LEAG will provide feedback and advice on key projects and priorities of the Mental Health Commission. The LEAG will assist the JLG to ensure that system-wide strategy, policy, service development and delivery, and evaluation is informed by a collective understanding of shared lived experience. This contribution will assist in delivering an integrated and recovery-oriented system with a person-centred approach. Whole of system priorities will be addressed, including transitioning to more community-based services that provide prevention and earlier intervention, and diversion away from acute in-patient services.

Who will be on the Lived Experience Advisory Group?

Membership will be broad to ensure the voices of consumers, family, significant others and community with a living or lived experience and / or suicidal crisis are diversely represented. Applicants may have a Lived Experience expertise in the following areas:

- Demonstrated Lived or Living Experience in mental health distress, alcohol and other drugs use or suicidal crisis (consumer), or
- Demonstrated family member and significant other perspectives of supporting someone with mental health challenges, alcohol and other drugs use issues or suicidal crisis; or
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural expertise that includes either a consumer, family member or significant other perspective.

What Lived Experience Expertise is required?

LEAG members are required to work from a Lived Experience expertise perspective. This includes using their lived experience in conjunction with training and professional development in their practice. Members will be responsible for maintaining this Lived Experience expertise to inform the work of the LEAG.

What if I don't agree with the views of other members?

The LEAG aims to represent a diversity of experiences. While the LEAG will provide collective advice to the Joint Leadership Group it is understood that this may include (and probably will) independent views that are representative of the diversity of the LEAG membership.

The LEAG, like other committees and groups will be expected to adhere to a code of conduct regarding expected behaviour. LEAG members will be expected to show competence and care and respect the rights and welfare of others. A dispute resolution process will also be in place to ensure procedural fairness and equitable and timely resolution if issues arise.

How often will the Lived Experience Advisory Group meet and where will meetings be held?

Formal LEAG meetings will be held quarterly at the Commission's office located at Level 1, 1 Nash Street, Perth.

Attending the meeting in person is required. Meetings will be three and a half hours in duration. Dates and times of meetings will be confirmed after appointments are finalised.

Public transport is easily accessible with the Mclver train station located across from the Commission and paid parking is readily available.

LEAG members who reside in regional and remote WA will have their travel and accommodation costs reimbursed or supported to participate virtually.

Do I need to be a resident of Western Australia?

Yes. Members must reside in Western Australia.

How long are the terms of appointment?

LEAG members may initially be appointed for a term of up to three years with a possibility of renewal for a maximum appointment of two terms.

Successful applicants will receive the Terms of Reference and other associated meeting documents prior to the first meeting.

Will I be remunerated for my time?

Public sector employees or applicants otherwise engaged through a contract of services are not eligible for remuneration. Successful applicants who are public sector employees will need approval from their employer regarding the time required to participate in the LEAG.

Eligible members will be paid in line with the Commission's [Paid Participation Policy](#) at the Advisor Tier. It is expected that details about engagement, including work required and associated payments, will be confirmed in an Agreement upon appointment. Payment for meeting preparations and attendance will be offered for the role at the Advisor Tier rate of \$75 per hour, where 10 hours has been set as time to prepare and attend LEAG meetings and other related activities.

Will transportation and accommodation costs be covered if I'm based in regional and remote areas?

Yes. For members based in regional and remote areas, transportation and accommodation costs will be covered up to a limit specified in the [Paid Participation Policy](#). Further details of payment will be set out as per the Letter of Engagement upon successful appointment as a LEAG member.

How do I respond to this Expressions of Interest (EOI)?

To apply for membership on the LEAG, complete the EOI form by accessing this [link](#).

When will EOI applications close?

Applications will close on Friday 20 September 2024 at 5pm.

How will I know if my EOI has been received?

Applicants will receive an email notification confirming receipt of their application. If you do not receive a notification, please follow up via email to SystemGovernance@mhc.wa.gov.au.

Who will decide who is on the Lived Experience Advisory Group?

A selection panel will review all applications and appoint members to the LEAG.

Are there any exclusions to applying for the Lived Experience Advisory Group?

Yes. Members of the Mental Health, Wellbeing, and Alcohol and Other Drugs Ministerial Advisory Panel, other than the Assistant Commissioners, are not eligible to apply.

Mental Health Commission employees are not eligible to apply.

If I am successful, is a Police Clearance required?

Yes. A Criminal Record Screening (CRS) check is required for this role; and you would need to pay the cost for this to be completed prior to being appointed. Having a Criminal Record does not exclude you from applying. We understand that people have diverse life experiences, and these unique justice perspectives may contribute to the work of the LEAG. An unsuccessful CRS does not mean an applicant will be excluded from the selection process and several factors are taken into consideration.

What documentation will I be required to complete as part of the induction process?

Successful applicants will need to read, complete and sign the following documents:

- Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement;
- Conflict of Interest Declaration; and
- Code of Conduct.

How will I know if I'm selected for the Lived Experience Advisory Group?

After applications close, successful applicants will receive a letter from the Minister for Mental Health confirming their membership to the LEAG.

If you are not successful in the application, you will be notified via email.

Is there an information session I can attend for further information?

A pre-recorded information webinar is available by accessing [this link](#), which provides details of the LEAG and how to apply.

Additionally, there will be an optional thirty (30) minute live question and answer (Q&A) session that will be held online on Thursday 5 September 2024 at 4:30pm to answer any questions you may have.

The Q&A session will be held online using TEAMS. If you wish to attend, please ensure to complete this [link](#) to register your attendance.

Once you have registered you will be sent the Q&A session invitation.

Who can I contact if I have additional questions?

Please contact Matthew Monkhouse on (08) 6553 0230 or via email on matthew.monkhouse@mhc.wa.gov.au if you require additional information about the role or assistance relating to your application.

What are the other ways I can get involved with the Mental Health Commission as a Lived Experience member?

The Mental Health Commission has a number of strategic committees that include Lived Experience members:

- Mental Health Networks;
- Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents;
- Tender Evaluation Panels;
- Mental Health Act Statutory Review Steering Committee;
- Peer Workforce Project Steering Committee;
- Graylands Reconfiguration and Forensic Taskforce; and
- Peak Bodies, Advocacy Organisations and External Community Supports.

For more information, please click [here](#)

