



Lived Experience (Peer) Workforce Project Steering Committee Communique #30

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 documents such as 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 is co-chaired by Margaret Doherty, representing the Family Significant Other/Community mental health, alcohol and other drug and forensic portfolios, and Director Strategic Policy and Planning, Mental Health Commission.

This Communique is to provide all stakeholders with information and outcomes from the meeting held on Tuesday, 18th February 2025.

Principles-Based Recruitment (PBR) Package

Members had the opportunity to discuss the draft Principles-Based Recruitment (PBR) package (in this context, PBR is preferred, however noting 'Values' may be used instead of 'Principles') and provide feedback from the lens of their organisation and/or Lived Experience. Members agreed the content is sophisticated and well thought out but felt the language and format could be further refined for readability and accessibility. Questions and discussions were had about the target audience, if the documents are fit for purpose, and the inclusion of Criminal Records Screening. Members provided the Guest Presenter with recommendations for consideration in the progression of the package.

Other Business

Members were provided with a progress update on the National Mental Health Workforce Working Group, specifically the establishment of a National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Peer Workforces Association and the National Census of Lived Experience (Peer) Workforce. Members were advised that Lived Experience Australia has been engaged to develop the Association in consultation with individuals who are working or have worked in designated Lived Experience roles. Focus groups will be held in March 2025 and, depending on the level of engagement, the opportunity to provide input via a national online survey. The design and delivery of the Census will be informed by a broad range of stakeholders and is anticipated to open in late 2025 and close in early 2026.

Lived Experience (Peer) Principles

Members reflected on the Lived Experience (Peer) principle of *Connection* and how it was embodied during the meeting. Several members expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the opportunity to progress the PBR package collectively, maturely, and respectfully. The significant benefit of having members from diverse backgrounds was also noted.

Membership

The Committee welcomed new member Tony Lee, independent Aboriginal Lived Experience representative to the group. Tony's knowledge and perspective was greatly received in this, his first meeting and members expressed enthusiasm about his continued involvement in the group.

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

