THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION’S PEER WORKFORCE PROJECT

COMMUNIQUE – STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING – 5 May 2022

The Mental Health Commission’s (MHC) Lived Experience Peer Workforce Project (Project) aims to guide the development of a thriving state-wide consumer, family and carer Lived Experience (Peer) Workforce across the mental health (including suicide prevention) and alcohol and other drug sectors. 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 across the sectors has been established. The Steering Committee provides the strategic oversight and guidance to the Project. The Steering Committee, co-chaired by David McMaster, Director, System Development (MHC), however, on this occasion by proxy
Sara Walsh, Principle Policy Officer (MHC) and Margaret Doherty, representing the Family Carer/Community mental health portfolio, last met on 5 May 2022. This communique has been developed to provide all stakeholders with information and outcomes from that meeting.

The aim of the 5 May meeting was to discuss Steering Committee feedback regarding the draft WA Lived Experience (Peer) Framework, clarify the decision-making and ongoing consultation process and confirm the process to progress the Framework and supporting resources.

The Steering Committee feedback was comprehensive, and the Project Team are steadily incorporating it into the Framework. The Steering Committee provided advice and guidance to the Project Team regarding the more complex elements of the feedback to consider and the proposed way forward for inclusion in the next iteration of the draft Framework.

The Steering Committee and Project Team agreed to circulate the draft Framework for feedback to the Lived Experience Working Group (LEWG) and former Sector Reference Group (SRG) members. Furthermore, it was agreed that feedback will also be sought from additional stakeholders from the CaLD/ELD, Aboriginal workforce and LGBTIQA+ communities to further inform the draft Framework.

The Steering Committee was presented with a short sample design prototype of the draft Framework developed by IT professionals Two21 which was positively received.

Initial discussion took place around potential website names for a dedicated WA Lived Experience Peer Workforce website to host the final Framework, supporting documents, resources. The website will also serve as an ongoing repository for future, relevant resources

The next Steering Committee meeting has yet to be confirmed. More information about the Project including Terms of Reference documents can be found on the MHC Project page [here](https://www.mhc.wa.gov.au/about-us/major-projects/peer-workforce-project/).

Please feel free to distribute the Communique to your wider networks.

For further information or if you have any queries, please contact Louise Howe 08 6553 0600 or email engagement@mhc.wa.gov.au.