

COMMUNIQUE

Communique 18 December, Melbourne Peer Workforce Development Guidelines Leaders Roundtable 30 November 2018

The National Mental Health Commission (the Commission) has been tasked with leading the development of national Peer Workforce Development Guidelines, as identified under Action 29 of the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan Implementation Plan and consistent with our 2014 National Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services in relation to the peer workforce. As an initial step, the Commission held a Peer Workforce Development Guidelines Leaders Roundtable on 30 November 2018 in Melbourne.

The Roundtable brought together peer workforce leaders from across the country to provide independent and expert advice on the potential scope and themes for the development of the guidelines, and future avenues for engagement with peer workers and other key stakeholder groups. The Commission welcomed the engaging discussions and valuable contributions made from participants on the day.

Topics raised at the Roundtable included organisational readiness and workplace culture, key roles and functions, peer supervision and mentoring, career progression and leadership, professional development, and research and evaluation. Terminology and language to define the consumer peer workforce and carer peer workforce, as well as role clarity, were also raised as crucial elements for the project to explore. Participants discussed appropriate and authentic engagement processes with the peer workforce and other key stakeholder groups for the purposes of the project. There was also a high level of support for the formation of a national peer work association to advocate for the continued development of the peer workforce.

As a next step, the Commission will explore engagement pathways based on the feedback provided by the leaders at the Roundtable, including authentic structures for engaging with peer workers, consumers and carers. Further engagement and participation pathways for other stakeholder groups and interested parties will also be determined. The agenda and background paper for the Roundtable can be accessed on our website.