



Australian Government  
National Mental Health Commission

## COMMUNIQUE

### Peer Workforce Development Guidelines Steering Committee

20 May 2020

The National Mental Health Commission Steering Committee for the Peer Workforce Development Guidelines project held an out-of-session meeting on 20 May 2020. The meeting was held by video conference, and due to the COVID-19 pandemic future meetings will also be held remotely for the foreseeable future.

The Steering Committee discussed the RMIT research team reports on the findings on the consultations that involved the following: the national online survey of peer workers and employers, funders, clinicians; two focus groups with key stakeholders; telephone interviews with employers, funders and other stakeholders; and consultations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in VIC and Qld.

Our thanks to everyone who contributed to our consultation process and completed the national survey. We certainly recognise that in the aftermath of the bushfires and amidst the development of COVID-19 that February and March were challenging months for our communities.

Much valuable input for the development of the guidelines is now collected by the RMIT research team. We will receive shortly the first draft of the guidelines and review it. We look forward to workshopping them during our June meeting with the RMIT team.

We also received an update on the work of the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy Taskforce from our Deputy Co-Chair, Margaret Doherty who is also a member of the Taskforce that first met on 27 March 2020. Peer and lived experience workforce is a priority area of focus for the strategy. For the Taskforce membership, terms of reference and meeting communiques go to the link:

<https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/national-mental-health-workforce-strategy>

As always, you can also email the project team at [PeerWork@mentalhealthcommission.gov.au](mailto:PeerWork@mentalhealthcommission.gov.au).

*Margaret Doherty and Tim Heffernan*  
*Deputy Co-Chairs*  
*Peer Workforce Development Guidelines Steering Committee*