



Australian Government
National Mental Health Commission

COMMUNIQUE

Peer Workforce Development Guidelines Steering Committee

16 June 2020

The National Mental Health Commission Steering Committee for the Peer Workforce Development Guidelines project held a meeting on 16 June 2020 by video conference.

The extended meeting was an opportunity for the Steering Committee to meet with the RMIT research team headed by Dr Louise Byrne to provide direct feedback on the first draft of the National Peer Workforce Development Guidelines.

The draft guidelines is structured into three sections with an appendix:

1. Australia's Peer/Lived Experience Workforce: principles, values, roles and work.
2. A model of the stages of development – the largest section of the guidelines looks at a developmental model over three stages.
3. Future considerations for key stakeholders and linkages with key initiatives such as the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy.
4. Appendix – sources, resources, peak bodies.

We generally agreed with the stages of development approach and a range of valuable insights on this aspect of the guidelines was provided to the RMIT research team. We considered it was essential to have clear guidance to support organisations to progress through the stages to the transformation stage. The issue of language and terminology was also explored.

We discussed with the NMHC project team the next stage of consultation on the revised draft guidelines. It was agreed that some targeted small-group Zoom workshops will be scheduled for September (approximately) to provide feedback on sections of the draft guidelines as this will assist in ensuring that the refined final product is fit for purpose.

These sessions will be organised with stakeholder groups such as: funders/policy makers including state commissions/government agencies; consumer and carer peak bodies; key mental health agencies/organisations peer work networks, peer leaders/researchers/employers; and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Our next meeting will consider the revised draft of the guidelines.

In the meantime, you can contact the NMHC team at PeerWork@mentalhealthcommission.gov.au.

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Deputy Co-Chairs
Peer Workforce Development Guidelines Steering Committee