

COMMUNIQUE

Peer Workforce Development Guidelines Steering Committee 24 February 2020

The National Mental Health Commission's Steering Committee for the Peer Workforce Development Guidelines project held its first meeting of the year via tele/videoconference on 24 February 2020.

The Steering Committee received an update on preliminary findings and emerging themes from the consultation process being led by Dr Louise Byrne and her team from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) University. The consultation process has involved focus groups, phone interviews and a national online survey. Participants in the consultations have included consumer peer workers, carer peer workers, peak bodies, clinicians, government representatives, non-government organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services.

Our thanks to everyone who has participated in the consultation process so far. Your input will be invaluable to the project and we are grateful for your time and contributions.

Remember that there is still time to have your say through the online survey. The survey is open to anyone who works in the mental health sector (peer workers and non-peer workers alike). We encourage you spread the word through your networks:

https://rmit.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8Bw1X1EBT1XNiT3

Recognising that some people may have been unable to complete the survey over summer due to the bushfire crisis, the timeframe for the survey has been extended from one to two months. The survey will remain open until Tuesday 31 March 2020.

Dr Byrne and her team will soon begin the process of developing a first draft of the Guidelines for further consultation. We provided some initial ideas and feedback to inform the drafting process.

We also discussed options for the next phase of the consultation process on the draft Guidelines, and strategies for reaching out to broader stakeholder groups who may have an interest in the project.

Our next meeting in June will focus on workshopping the first draft of the Guidelines. We are excited to see the draft and look forward to reporting back in June.

In the meantime, the project team can be contacted via
PeerWork@mentalhealthcommission.gov.au

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