

## Queensland Mental Health Consumer Representative Peak Establishment Project Steering Committee Communique

**3 February 2021**

*The planned discussion at the eighth meeting of the Queensland mental health consumer representative peak (Peak) project steering committee (Committee) about the new consumer mental health representative peak's operational pack and first year business plan were held over to the next meeting. Instead, the Committee considered questions arising from the legal review of the final draft of the Constitution.*

### **Acknowledgement**

The Queensland Mental Health Commission (the Commission) acknowledges all people who have personal experience of mental ill-health. We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we live and work, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future. We also acknowledge the many organisations, service providers and community members who work in partnership with us and who generously share their views, knowledge, and expertise. Your voices are all essential to our work.

### **Measuring learning**

Evaluating lived experience-led projects such as this one is important for designing **more** lived experience-led projects! It is imperative to demonstrate what works well and how, and understand what success looks like.

In mental health research, there is a growing number of lived-experience researchers. In evaluation, people with lived experience may be empowered to engage in collaborative evaluation processes as stakeholders, but not necessarily as evaluators.

At this Committee meeting, the project team was excited to share the news that a lived-experience evaluator has been engaged to evaluate the Peak establishment project.

Project evaluation generally begins with determining what to ask and identifying reliable measures, indicators, tools, and instruments that are relevant to the project's goals, objectives, and activities. Over the course of this month, Committee members and other stakeholders will be invited to participate in workshops and interviews to inform the project's evaluation framework.

### **Our talented Queensland community**

The Committee was provided with an inspiring recruitment update. The Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Board Director positions for the new Peak have generated significant amounts of interest from talented people across Queensland, thanks to Committee members and others sharing these opportunities widely through their networks.

Applications for Board Director positions have now closed. The closing date for the Interim CEO position is Wednesday 3 March 2021. Please see the Queensland Mental Health Commission's consumer peak [webpage](#) for more details.

### **Legal review of the Constitution**

The Commission provided the endorsed final draft of the constitution for the new Peak, developed in consultation with the Committee, to legal experts for review and advice. On review, the legal team identified two areas which required further consideration by the Committee. The first area related to members and voting rights, and the second related to a proposed advisory group.

Following discussion of the options, the Committee has now decided on a single class of 'full' voting membership. In the absence of a tier for non-voting (associate) members, the Peak will develop other ways to keep in touch with carers, family members, allies, and friends of the organisation.

The Committee also decided to recommend a lived-experience advisory group be established in the new Peak's board governance manual and operational pack (rather than the constitution). This group can be consulted by the board and management to provide additional "consumer experience and perspectives" on planning, communication and processes. Keeping this structure out of the constitution removes the risk that advisory group members could amount to "shadow" or "de facto" directors and therefore be subject to substantially the same duties and liabilities as those applying to directors.

### **Next meeting**

There will be a considerable amount of work to do at the next meeting, to be held on 10 March 2021. The Committee will discuss and endorse the new Peak's operational pack and first year business plan. In addition, the Committee will discuss and endorse the orientation pack which is being developed to on-board the Peak's officeholders when they are recruited.

### **Keep up to date**

Regular project updates can be found in Queensland Mental Health Commission's [consumer peak webpage](#) or by subscribing to the [eNews](#).

The Project Steering Committee or the project team can be contacted by email on [ConsumerPeak@qmhc.qld.gov.au](mailto:ConsumerPeak@qmhc.qld.gov.au).

Note the email account is not monitored outside business hours.