



Understanding AOD Lived Experience Leadership Project

Peer Worker Focus Group Information Sheet

The “Understanding AOD Lived Experience Leadership” project, funded by the Mental Health Commission (the Commission), aims to better understand the opportunities and barriers to Lived Experience roles in leadership within the alcohol and other drug (AOD) sector. (By lived experience, WANADA means experience of being impacted by their own or another’s AOD use).

This project focuses on ensuring that people with AOD Lived Experience can be heard and their voices elevated in a safe and empowering environment. This includes safe engagement in advisory and decision-making settings.

A review of the relevant research and experiences from other States and Territories has been undertaken. The next stage involves engaging with representatives from the WA AOD sector. Discussions will be guided by research findings, and importantly, the experiences of current Peer workers and sector leaders with AOD Lived Experience.

The project aims to ensure the voices and expertise of those with relevant lived experience are enabled to shape recommendations to the Commission, differentiating AOD from Mental Health Lived Experience where appropriate. The project outcomes will inform the enhancement of the Commission’s internal lived experience workforce capacity and their ways of engaging with people with AOD lived experience in decision-making settings.

Purpose of the Focus Group

The focus group aims to gather insights and experiences from peer workers relevant to the project’s focus. Your input will help us develop recommendations to better support and engage the AOD lived experience workforce meaningfully.

Eligibility

To participate in this focus group, you must meet one of the two following criteria:

1. A Peer worker (a dedicated peer role that requires you to use your lived experience in that role).
2. A person with known lived experience who works in an AOD service but is not in a dedicated peer work role.

and: submit the Expression of Interest form attached by close of business **7th of August 2024**. We will notify participants of the outcome by the 9th.

Date and Time

14 August 2024, 9.00 – 11:30 AM (approximately 2.5 hours, including a 15-minute break).

Location

Level 1, 1 Nash Street, Perth WA 6000

What to Expect

- Participants will be provided with a safe space to share their experiences and perspectives through structured and open discussion. An agenda containing the main discussion points will be sent out beforehand.
- The group will consist of a maximum of 15-20 people.

Confidentiality

All information shared during the focus group will be kept confidential. We will not use any names or personal details in our reports or publications. We ask that all participants respect the confidentiality of others by not sharing any personal information discussed during the focus group.

Voluntary Participation

Participation is entirely voluntary, and you may withdraw at any time. The decision to withdraw will not affect your relationships with the project or the organisations involved. You are welcome to bring a support person if needed.

Participants who are currently not employed in the workforce will be reimbursed at an hourly rate for their time, including any reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, consistent with the WANADA Paid Participation Policy, which aligns with the Commission's [Consumer, Family, Carer and Community Paid Participation Policy](#). Paid participation will be discussed with individual participants as needed.

How to Apply

Please find attached an Expression of Interest form which must be completed and emailed to helin.cimen@wanada.org.au by close of business, Wednesday 7th of August 2024.

Contact Information

For any questions or further information about the focus group or the project, please contact Helin Cimen on 08 6557 9400 or via helin.cimen@wanada.org.au.

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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST to participate in the AOD Peer Worker Focus Group

We understand that the AOD peer workforce in Western Australia encompasses individuals with a diverse range of backgrounds. Your responses will help us assemble a group that reflects a variety of perspectives and experiences in the field. We appreciate your time and effort in filling out this form.

Name:

Preferred contact details:

Organisation name:

Role:

Service Type:

Area/Region:

Please select option/s that best describe your lived experience:

- Your own personal experience
- Family member or significant other's experience
- Treatment experience

Length of time working in the lived experience peer workforce:

How do you describe your gender?:

Do you identify as:

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Youth
- LGBTQIA+
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
- Person living with disability
- Other:

Why are you interested in participating in this focus group?

- I am available to attend the focus group in person on 14 Aug 2024 between 9:00 – 11:30 AM.
- I would like to bring a support worker with me.
- I am happy to provide my consent to participate in this focus group and share my insights as described in the project information sheet.