



# WA Peer Supporters' News

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Connecting a vibrant and valued network of peer supporters in WA

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Hi everyone and welcome to the first edition of the WA Peer Supporters' newsletter for 2021!.  
Apologies for cross-postings and please feel free to distribute to networks.

## WAPSN Latest News

### WA Peer Supporters' Network Meetings – 2021 Calendar

WAPSN is pleased to present the 2021 Meeting Calendar! These meetings are for anyone with an interest in learning about peer support and developing peer work practice skills. Build skills, sustain and thrive in your peer support role!

**You are invited to join us for the first meeting of 2021.**

**Date:** Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March

**Time:** 10am – 12.30pm

**Place:** CoMHWa Training Room, 14/275 Belmont Avenue, Cloverdale

**RSVP:** [info@peersupportwa.org.au](mailto:info@peersupportwa.org.au)



WA Peer Supporters Network

*Your place to connect, learn and grow.*

# Events and Training

## Upcoming Peer Work Training Courses at CoMHWA

### What is Peer Work?

This information session is designed for people who are exploring if being a Peer Worker is for them. If you have a lived experience of mental health distress and feel you have progressed along your recovery pathway to contribute as a Peer and would like to know about peer work this session is suitable for you. You will be provided with an overview of the peer and consumer advocacy sectors and introduced to values and key aspects of what it means to be a peer worker.

**Date:** Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April

**Time:** 9.30am – 12.30pm

**REGISTER:** [admin@comhwa.org.au](mailto:admin@comhwa.org.au)

### Intentional Disclosure of Lived Experience for Peer Workers

This workshop addresses the importance of purposeful lived experience sharing in peer work roles and consumer representation. Key elements and aspects of sharing lived experience safely, ethically and effectively considering a trauma informed and recovery-based approach are discussed.

**Date:** Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May

**Time:** 9.30am – 2.00pm

**Register:** [admin@comhwa.org.au](mailto:admin@comhwa.org.au)



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## Peer Networking Series: Morning Tea

The first of ConnectGroups' Peer Networking Series, this morning tea will include an Open Space session facilitated by ConnectGroups staff, followed by an informal networking session.

**Date:** Tuesday 2nd March 2021

**Time:** 9.30am – 12.00pm

**Venue:** Tuart College, 105 Banksia Street, Tuart Hill WA 6060

**Cost:** FREE

**RSVP:** <https://connectgroups.org.au/events/peer-networking-series-morning-tea/>

## How to Facilitate a Support Group

This workshop will define what makes an effective facilitator, the roles and responsibilities of a group facilitator, and discuss troubleshooting tips. We will explore the importance of communication and understand useful tools to communicate with effectiveness. Within this training we will also consider the perception of conflict and how it may actually be turned into a useful tool for your group's sustainability.

This training will be useful for those looking to start a group and existing members wanting to increase their pool of co-facilitators.

**Date:** Tuesday 30th March 2021

**Time:** 9.30am – 12.00pm

**Venue:** ConnectGroups office, 52 Kishorn Road, Applecross WA 6153

**Cost:** FREE

**RSVP:** <https://connectgroups.org.au/events/how-to-facilitate-a-support-group-2/>

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## Peer Workforce Opportunities

### North Metro Mental Health Service – Peer Support Workers

The Joondalup Community Adult Mental Health Service is seeking a candidate who is eager to assist in the recovery of persons with a Mental Health illness. As the successful candidate, you will work as a member of the multi-disciplinary team, provide emotional and practical support to consumers on an individual and group basis.

Click here to view the full advert.

<https://www.jobs.health.wa.gov.au/page.php?pageID=160&windowUID=0&AdvertID=268845>

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### Southern Cross Care – Mental Health Recovery Worker

Within this unique environment as a Recovery Partner you will have the opportunity to work alongside our residents to support them in fulfilling goals, developing strategies and reaching for outcomes that meet the individual needs of each client.

Click here to view the full advert.

<https://www.seek.com.au/job/51490842?type=standard#searchRequestToken=898fb877-f6a5-44ff-9649-7cffe1bc416>

## MIFWA – Outreach Peer Worker

We are seeking an experienced peer practitioner who will take on a key role in liaising with participants and hospital staff. The role involves working alongside participants as they return home from a mental health related hospital stay to support their settling in at home and rebuilding their wellbeing.

Click here to view the full advert.

<https://www.seek.com.au/job/51579460?type=standard#searchRequestToken=86845bf3-a8cb-4075-b15e-65e4990a9f4c>

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## Of Interest

### New initiatives to deliver greater support for people entering hospitals and returning to the community

Mental Health Minister Roger Cook has announced two new initiatives to deliver better recovery opportunities for people experiencing mental health and alcohol and other drug issues. Both initiatives are a first for Western Australia in line with the McGowan Government's ongoing commitment to provide more wraparound care in hospitals and the community.

In the first initiative, Active Recovery Teams (ART) are being established in ten metropolitan and regional locations. The aim of this 18-month pilot model is to bridge the gap between clinical mental health services inside hospitals and the community-based organisations who provide care outside of hospitals.

The teams will initially be established in adult and youth services located at Armadale, Bentley, Midland, Murdoch, Osborne Park, Perth, Peel and Rockingham, as well as in the Midwest and Wheatbelt regions. The first services are anticipated to be operational by March 2021.

**Full story:** <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2021/01/New-initiatives-to-deliver-greater-support-for-people-entering-hospitals-and-returning-to-the-community.aspx>

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## The CARE Hub

**A place to communicate and collaborate on what's important in community mental health.**

The Collaborative and Responsive Engagement (CARE) Hub is an online communication Hub for community mental health and wellbeing. They believe we are stronger when we work together, and so the Hub is open to anyone connected to the community mental health sector, whether through lived experience, work or study.

Find out more and sign up via <https://carehub.waamh.org.au/>

## ASPIRE Program Update

**ASPIRE** stands for “Advancing Successful Peer Inclusion and Readiness for Employment” and aims to create new employment pathways into peer work roles in Western Australia through a partnership of Peer Support Workers and employers.

Over the last few months, the team have been busy developing Individual Vocational Activity training modules for Peer Support Workers; looking at topics such as job readiness; interpersonal skills and mind fitness. The content has been created through consultations with over 80 Peer Support Workers and Peer Support Champions across the State. It is now going through a review process before being piloted later this year.

Employers will be assisted with workplace readiness and inclusion through a readiness toolkit and access to skilled peer work student placements. If you are an employer of Peer Support Workers, we would love to hear from you as we develop the Workplace Readiness Program.

As a result of new and successful connections, the project aims to boost employable skills and employment outcomes for individuals and create new employment pathways with employers that are inclusive, confident and motivated to employ peer workers.

For more information, or to contact us, please see our webpage <https://comhwa.org.au/programs/aspire>

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### Are you receiving this in the mail?

Contact us and switch to e-news to access articles that we can't always print and send along with this newsletter.

### News to Share?

WAPSPN welcomes guest articles from peer supporters and news from our networks on all things peer.

To request a news item phone us on (08) 9258 8911 or email [info@peersupportwa.org.au](mailto:info@peersupportwa.org.au)