



WA Peer Supporters' Network

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Connecting a vibrant and valued network of peer supporters in WA

19th July 2021

Hi everyone and welcome to the July edition of WAPSN news.
Apologies for cross-postings and please feel free to distribute to networks..

WAPSN Update

August Co-reflection – ONLINE!

Our last meeting had people requesting an out of hours, online opportunity for co-reflection and a more casual opportunity to catch up. We heard you!

We will have a catch up on Tuesday August 17th at 5.30pm for an hour via zoom.

This event will be available only online via Zoom

Date: Tuesday August 17th

Time: 5.30–6.30pm

Place: online via Zoom

RSVP: [Click here to register on Zoom](#) or email info@peersupportwa.org.au

September WAPSN Meeting

Our next scheduled meeting is set for September. This meeting will focus on the diversity of Peer Support Work. We will have members from various sectors sharing their expertise, providing project updates and experiences as Peer Supporters.

If you are interested in presenting at the next meeting and have something you would like to share please get in touch with Renai Searle on info@peersupportwa.org.au or 08 9258 8911.

This will be followed by co-reflection with fellow Peer Supporters.

Date: Thursday September 2nd 2021

Time: 10.00am–12.30pm

Place: CoMHWA Training Room 14/275 Belmont Ave, Cloverdale WA 6105

RSVP: Email info@peersupportwa.org.au or phone 08 9258 8911 to RSVP

Zoom is available, please contact WAPSN via phone or email to arrange.

WAPSN Strategic Planning

The WAPSN strategic plan was last reviewed in 2014. We have secured an experienced Facilitator to run an initial strategic planning session in September. All current WAPSN members are invited to attend and contribute to the planning of WAPSN's future development.

Registrations are now open.

Date: Thursday September 2nd 2021

Time: 10.00am–12.30pm

Place: Central Metro location to be confirmed

RSVP: Register online <https://bit.ly/3ieFjhW>, email info@peersupportwa.org.au or phone 08 9258 8911

If you require to attend virtually via Zoom please include this in your RSVP.

ASPIRE & WAPSN Speaker Series

The Consumers of Mental Health WA (CoMHWA) is inviting all Peer Support Workers and graduates of the Cert IV in Mental Health Peer Work to attend the ASPIRE Speaker Series. These events will be a wonderful opportunity to hear from an expert in their field and network with other Peer Support Workers.

The Speaker Series will be:

- Held bi-monthly (August, October, December, February)
- Covering topics tailored to Peer Support Work
- An opportunity to network
- Including light refreshments.

August's guest speaker: Kathy Logie – *Peer Practice Lead, RUAH*

[Click here](#) to view the event flyer <https://bit.ly/2U8eG6v>

Topic: Longevity in the role and professional pathways

Date: Tuesday 10th August 2021

Time: 10:00–11:30am

Location: CoMHWA Training Room 14, 2/275 Belmont Avenue, Cloverdale.

Please note, remote/regional participants can be linked in via Zoom.

RSVP: Registration essential – register your attendance by Monday 7th June to admin@comhwa.org.au



Peer Workforce Champions Community of Practice Update

Are you familiar with the Peer Workforce Champions Community of Practice? The Peer Workforce Champions' Community of Practice is a collaborative professional learning network to support Peer Workforce uptake and capabilities through inter-agency knowledge sharing, support and collaboration..

Membership is open to anyone involved in Peer Workforce development within their agency or sector. This group meets bi-monthly, with the next meeting occurring on Thursday August 5th.

If you are a current member, you should have received a request to confirm your membership via email. If you have not received this, you can [click here](#) and confirm your membership now. You can also contact WAPSN to confirm your membership via phone or email.

From the 30/07/2021 only members who have confirmed their involvement in the PWCCOP will be contacted.

You can discover more about the PWCCOP on our website. www.wapsn.org.au

View the meeting calendar [online](https://bit.ly/3reVPmn): <https://bit.ly/3reVPmn>

Confirm your involvement in the PWCCOP [online](https://bit.ly/3remq2D): <https://bit.ly/3remq2D>



Events and Training

Life Launchpad Leaders Training

Free training and support for Lived Experience Leaders, Consumer Representatives, Peer Workers, and Peer Group Facilitators.

Consumers of Mental Health WA (CoMHWA) are seeking passionate and connected people with lived/living experience of mental health difficulties and/or emotional distress to join us for the Life Launchpad Leaders Training.

CoMHWA's Life Launchpad program is an innovative blend of Peer Facilitated, co-designed, strengths-based skills building activities, including workshops, network facilitation, Peer support, and Peer mentoring. The Life Launchpad program is based on a Peer Community Network model. It was designed for and by Peers with a shared interest in personal empowerment.

If you would like to discover more about the Life Launchpad Project you can read more on the [CoMHWA website](#) or contact CoMHWA via phone 9258 8911 or email admin@comhwa.org.au

Read the training information sheet [online](https://bit.ly/2VSCGLr): <https://bit.ly/2VSCGLr>

Submit your EOI [online](https://bit.ly/3rbVIbb): <https://bit.ly/3rbVIbb>

For more information, please contact CoMHWA by phone 08 9258 8911 or email admin@comhwa.org.au

Date: Monday to Wednesday 23rd, 24th and 25th of August 2021

Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm daily

Place: CoMHWA Training Room 14/275 Belmont Ave, Cloverdale WA 6105

Cost: Free for all selected participants

Submit your EOI [online](https://bit.ly/3rbVIbb): <https://bit.ly/3rbVIbb> or contact CoMHWA by email admin@comhwa.org.au or phone 08 9258 8911



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.

Registration is essential for this session!

Date: Wednesday August 4th 2021

Time: 9.30am – 3.30pm

Place: CoMHWA Training Room 14/275 Belmont Ave, Cloverdale WA 6105

Cost: Free for all individual CoMHWA members

RSVP: to CoMHWA on email admin@comhwa.org.au or phone 08 9258 8911

Telling Your Story Safely

Explore safely revealing parts of your story and sharing your lived experience in such a way that serves your personal purpose. This workshop is suitable for anyone with a lived experience of mental health distress who wishes to disclose to their immediate circle with a view to increase awareness and understanding.

Registration is essential for this session!

Date: Friday August 27th 2021

Time: 9.30am – 3.30pm

Place: CoMHWA Training Room 14/275 Belmont Ave, Cloverdale WA 6105

Cost: Free for all individual CoMHWA members

RSVP: to CoMHWA on email admin@comhwa.org.au or phone 08 9258 8911

Introduction to Peer Group Facilitation

Learn planning and facilitation skills and strategies to facilitate a Peer support group. Find out how to manage difficult and disruptive behaviours while building your confidence in a supportive learning environment.

Registration is essential for this session!

Date: Wednesday September 8th 2021

Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm

Place: CoMHWA Training Room 14/275 Belmont Ave, Cloverdale WA 6105

Cost: Free for all individual CoMHWA members

RSVP: to CoMHWA on email admin@comhwa.org.au or phone 08 9258 8911

Subscribe to the Perth Metro Suicide Prevention Training Calendar

Neami National Metro Suicide Prevention team distributes a training calendar that includes upcoming training opportunities for:

- Standard Mental Health First Aid & Refresher Courses
- Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid
- Youth Mental Health First Aid & Refresher Courses
- Conversations about Suicide
- ASIST
- Various Online Courses
- Other Relevant Training opportunities.

You can subscribe to email updates [online: https://bit.ly/3kmT3dh](https://bit.ly/3kmT3dh) or email spc.metro@neaminational.org.au

Peer Workforce Opportunities

CoMHWA Peer Navigators (Peer Pathways)

The Peer Pathways Project will provide coordinated pathways to support individuals, their families, and carers to access the supports needed to promote mental and physical wellbeing. This is primarily a phone-based service and includes identifying needs and having a comprehensive understanding of the range of services available across the State.

View the JDF [online: https://comhwa.org.au/s/JDF-Peer-Navigator.pdf](https://comhwa.org.au/s/JDF-Peer-Navigator.pdf)

Read about the position on [CoMHWA's website: https://bit.ly/3z5U4L0](https://bit.ly/3z5U4L0)

CoMHWA Peer Work Project Manager

CoMHWA's Peer Work Project Manager will manage the ASPIRE project to grow employment pathways for Peer Support Workers and develop a Peers Online Digital Engagement Strategy. The successful candidate will

also manage and grow CoMHWA's Peer leadership and support within the mental health sector. We encourage you to visit the CoMHWA website to find out more about the ASPIRE project and our Peer leadership work.

This is a contract to 28th February 2023. Full-time position – 75 hours per fortnight. Negotiable working arrangements for preferred candidate. Immediate start.

View the JDF [online](https://comhwa.org.au/s/Peer-Work-Project-Manager.pdf): <https://comhwa.org.au/s/Peer-Work-Project-Manager.pdf>

Read about the position on CoMHWA's [website](https://bit.ly/3rg5UiY): <https://bit.ly/3rg5UiY>

CoMHWA Education and Training Project Manager

CoMHWA's Education and Training Project Manager will manage the Life Launchpad project to build capacity of individuals with lived experience of mental health issues. The successful candidate will also manage and grow CoMHWA's core mental health education programs. We encourage you to visit the CoMHWA website to find out more about the Life Launchpad project and about our education and training programs.

This is a contract to 28th February 2023. Full-time position – 75 hours per fortnight. Negotiable working arrangements for preferred candidate. Immediate start.

View the JDF [online](https://comhwa.org.au/s/Education-and-Training-Project-Manager.pdf): <https://comhwa.org.au/s/Education-and-Training-Project-Manager.pdf>

Read about the position on CoMHWA's [website](https://bit.ly/3if5tBg): <https://bit.ly/3if5tBg>

MIFWA Peer Workers – Mental Health (Multiple Roles)

MIFWA is seeking the following peer worker roles. These roles play an important part in supporting people with their transition back home, and into community, after having a mental health related hospital stay. The purpose of the two roles is to help link people in with community supports and GP's, navigate the mental health system, as well as supporting the person to develop coping strategies and resilience. The Roles are both outreach based across Perth Metro.

Peer Worker (Casual, Level 2 SCHADS)

Senior Peer Worker (Part time and Full-time hours available, Level 3 SCHADS)

Both roles require a valid drivers license and police check

If you are eager to use your lived mental health experience to make a positive impact in people's lives, please provide a brief cover letter outlining why you feel you are a good fit for the role and a copy of your current resume.

Clearly state on your cover letter or resume which role you are applying for.

MIFWA is an equal opportunity employer who embraces diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive workplace for all employees.

View the job listing on [seek](https://bit.ly/3ieOHCc): <https://bit.ly/3ieOHCc>

Wungening Aboriginal Corporation – Peer Worker (part time)

The Connect Wanju program supports the General Court Intervention Program [GCIP], which aims to improve access to treatment and support services for accused persons. The Connect Wanju program supports suitably referred participants by providing support and opportunities to progress change across a range of areas including social, emotional, alcohol and other drugs, socio-economic needs, housing support, family support, mental health, education and vocational training, and/or employment.

Palmerston Association and Wungening Aboriginal Corporation have partnered to provide the Connect Wanju program under a one team philosophy and positions will be with either organisation.

View the job listing on [seek: https://bit.ly/3epy1XA](https://bit.ly/3epy1XA)

Carers WA – Carer & Peer Capacity Program Manager

This position is responsible for the management and direct delivery of a select number of Carers WA programs which predominately focus on the development and establishment of Peer-based support programs, including online and in-person services; as well as liaison and engagement with ATSI based services, groups and communities.

The position is funded by the Carer Gateway program; an Australian Government initiative funded by the Department of Social Services (DSS) providing a mix of free online, telephone and in-person supports, service delivery and advice for family carers in Australia. These services have been specifically designed and tested by carers to help reduce stress and build resilience in the caring role.

In addition to a number of resources available through the National Carer Gateway website, dedicated in-person supports and services are being delivered throughout the states and territories through a network of Carer Gateway Service Providers. For Western Australia, Carers WA is leading the delivery of these in-person services, in partnership with our delivery partners.

This position is responsible for managing and assisting with the team's daily operations, ensuring delivery of all contracted outcomes within the assigned budget, which would include providing all reports at the required standard and deadlines set by the contract agencies, CEO and the Board. The role requires the ability to work with other Managers, team members and a wide range of partner organisations to raise awareness of carers within the broader community. Periodically the role will be involved in the development of submissions to government to seek funding for enhanced or new services for carers.

View the job listing on [seek: https://bit.ly/3eohQKi](https://bit.ly/3eohQKi)

Advocacy WA – Community Disability Advocate – Bunbury / South West

The Community Disability Advocate (CDA) will be responsible to build on the current disability Peer support groups and individual advocacy approach to *work with and involve the community* in identifying 'place-based' solutions to issues that negatively impact on self-determination, choice, and control of people with disability in that community.

The CDA would assist in building the capacity of people with disability to self-advocate on specific issues and in the process, identify what role and support the local community could play in addressing local systemic issues that have contributed to the need for advocacy support.

They are looking for someone that is a team player, is flexible, and can bring energy to the role.

View the JDF online: https://static.ethicaljobs.com.au/media/1625453137_IMWDu_.docx

View the job listing on [ethical jobs](https://bit.ly/3epzixQ): <https://bit.ly/3epzixQ>

Of Interest

CoMHWA Welcomes Decision to Scrap Independent NDIS Assessments

CoMHWA is pleased to hear this Friday's announcement that, after repeated pressure from Mental Health and Disability advocates around Australia, the government has been forced to abandon the controversial plan to roll out independent assessments for the NDIS. This decision comes after the plan was universally rejected by the state and territory ministers and was informed by the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS Independent Assessments Inquiry.

Read the full update [online](https://bit.ly/3rcBbDf): <https://bit.ly/3rcBbDf>

NDIA Consultation Papers now available online

The NDIA is pleased to share information about two new consultations they have started this week to secure feedback that will inform the development of a new Home and Living policy and a new Support for Decision Making policy.

To get the consultation started, two consultation papers and surveys have been published on the [Have your say](#) section of the NDIA website.

An Ordinary Life at Home consultation paper [Consultation paper – An ordinary life at home \(DOCX 1.3MB\)](#)

Supporting you to make your own decisions consultation paper. [Consultation paper – Supporting you to make your own decisions \(DOCX 2MB\)](#)

The consultation papers and surveys were developed with input from NDIS participants, nominees, families, and carers as well as a range of stakeholders including the NDIS Participant Reference Group, the Independent Advisory Council and members of their Home and Living and Intellectual Disability Reference Groups, academics, and members of our Participant First initiative.

Further information about the two consultations is available on the [Have your say](#) page on the NDIA website. <https://www.ndis.gov.au/community/have-your-say>

Final submissions due **5pm Friday 27 August 2021**.

If you have any questions about either of these two consultations, please email agencypolicy@ndis.gov.au

World Health Organisation recognises Open Excellent research areas

Highlighting Open Dialogue and the Hearing Voices approach in its latest report, the WHO recognizes the importance of programs that promote human rights. Open Excellence has been investing in research on these innovations for the last ten years.

Read the full report [online](https://bit.ly/3B89bVY): <https://bit.ly/3B89bVY>

View the Online Launch Event on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RI_Ad-Cfm_M): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RI_Ad-Cfm_M

Bringing Human Rights to Mental Health Care: An Interview with UN Envoy Dainius Pūras

Dainius Pūras is a medical doctor and human rights advocate. He is currently serving the final year of his term as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health. He is also a professor at Vilnius University, Lithuania, and the director of the Human Rights Monitoring Institute, an NGO based in Vilnius.

In this interview, Pūras discusses his own journey as a psychiatrist, his decision to get involved in human rights work, his goals for his UN reports, and the future of rights-based mental health care.

Listen to or read the interview on the [Mad in America website](https://bit.ly/3wMcxul): <https://bit.ly/3wMcxul>

Support Squad: A youth-led peer support network

27 young people took part in a week of storytelling and leadership development at the inaugural 2021 ACB Heywire Youth Ideas Lab in Broken Hill, NSW, to generate their ideas to make regional Australia an even better place to live.

Support Squad helps train young leaders to provide support, knowledge and companionship to their peers who may be struggling with a variety of challenges.

Support Squad will help young people navigate being the 'new person', by supporting them to make friends, develop useful study skills and link up with local groups in the community.

Read the full article on the [ABC website](https://ab.co/3kpCGwG): <https://ab.co/3kpCGwG>

Peer-to-Peer Support Groups for Older Adults Show Mixed Benefit

Peer-to-peer (P2P) support groups for adults aged 65 and older aren't any more beneficial in improving health and well-being than standard community services (SCS), according to a recent cohort study published in *JAMA Psychiatry*.

The study compared P2P support groups with SCS and the risk for increased hospitalization, urgent care, and emergency department use, as well as health and well-being.

Read the full article [online](https://bit.ly/3xMml8O): <https://bit.ly/3xMml8O>

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