



# WA Peer Supporters' Network

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Published by the WA Peer Supporters' Network

Connecting a vibrant and valued network of peer supporters in WA

05/10/2021

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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

### Global Peer Supporters' Celebration Day!

Join us in celebrating Global Peer Supporter's Celebration Day on October 21<sup>st</sup> 2021.

We will provide a free lunch, guest speakers, a few small stalls and opportunities to acknowledge the fabulous work (paid, volunteer and informal) done by WA Peer Supporters!

Global Peer Support Celebration Day (GPSCD), an annual celebration of peer supporters, peer support, and our work. This annual, worldwide event takes place annually on the third Thursday in October.

Your invite is attached to this newsletter.

**Date:** Thursday October 21st 2021

**Time:** 11am–2pm

**Place:** Holyrood Pavilion, 8 Holyrood Street, West Leederville

**RSVP:** Email [admin@comhwa.org.au](mailto:admin@comhwa.org.au) or phone 08 9258 8911 to RSVP

If you or your organisation is celebrating GPSCD we encourage you to share information, pictures, or social media posts with us!

## Strategic Planning is Underway!

On the 16/09/2021 the wonderful Aisling Blackmore facilitated the first WAPSN strategic planning forum. It was a great morning of productive conversation about the development of WAPSN. I am excited to soon be able to share the findings and outline the next steps!

Watch this space!

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## November WAPSN Meeting Reminder

Our next scheduled meeting is on 4<sup>th</sup> November!

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](mailto:info@peersupportwa.org.au) or 08 9258 8911.

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

**Date:** Thursday November 4th 2021

**Time:** 10.00am–12.30pm

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

**RSVP:** Email [info@peersupportwa.org.au](mailto:info@peersupportwa.org.au) or phone 08 9258 8911 to RSVP

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

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## Peer Pathways – Peer Navigation Phone Service

Peer Pathways is a free, confidential phone line providing Peer Navigation for individuals experiencing mental health challenges, their supports, friends, family and carers. Staffed by trained Peer Navigators who have been there and are passionate about supporting others to explore their options for local, suitable supports.

Do you provide supports, know of a great service or program, facilitate a Peer Support Group and want to make sure we know about the awesome work you are doing? We would love to hear from you.

Give us a call Mon–Fri 9am–5pm or email [info@peerpathways.org.au](mailto:info@peerpathways.org.au). If you would like to request posters, flyers or other promotional information to share with others send us an email or request the information on our website. [www.peerpathways.org.au](http://www.peerpathways.org.au)



A free, confidential phone service for all West Australians experiencing mental health challenges to find suitable supports

I've just moved house and I need a new GP who understands my mental health needs.

I have a lot going on at the moment and I don't know where I can find support.

I don't think my supports are working well... are there any other options for me? I am in a remote area.

I need help finding suitable supports for someone I care for.

**Our Peer Navigators support individuals, family members and carers to explore options for local, suitable supports for all health and wellbeing needs.**

**9477 2809**  
[www.peerpathways.org.au](http://www.peerpathways.org.au)

Peer Pathways is not a crisis line. If you are experiencing distress please call Lifeline on 13 11 14  
This service is supported by WA Primary Health Alliance under the Australian Governments' Primary Health Networks Program.

# Events and Training

## Chill and Chat

Come along to CoMHWA's Mental Health Week event for 2021!

Join us for a relaxing afternoon with plenty of family friendly activities to choose from.

### Event Details

**Date:** Tuesday 26/10/2021

**Time:** 9.30am–12pm

**Venue:** 100 Gerring Court, Rivervale

**RSVP is essential** please email [admin@comhwa.org.au](mailto:admin@comhwa.org.au) or phone 9258 8911

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## CoMHWA Training Calendar Announced

Consumers of Mental Health WA have published their final 2021 training calendar. CoMHWA education, training and workshops are free for all members and are either hosted at their training room in Belmont or online.

Upcoming trainings include

- Navigating Mental Health Services
  - Boundaries and Networking
  - Introduction to Consumer Representation
  - Intentional Disclosure of Lived Experiences
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## Peer Worker Course

**The peer worker course is facilitated by and is for people with a lived experience of mental distress.**

Who is the Peer worker course for?

- Must have lived experience of mental illness
- Must be willing to work within a group setting
- Have a keen interest in working in the mental health sector.

### Things you need to know

- There will be an information morning on the 11th October 2021 from 10am – 2pm. You must RSVP to be able to attend the Information Day.
- Please bring completed application form.
- Interested applicants are encouraged to attend an interview (15 minute timeslots across the afternoon).
- Following the interview, 10 applicants will be selected to attend this course.

Course start date: Monday 18th October from 9.30am – 3.30pm. Running for 6 consecutive Mondays finishing Monday 22nd November 2021.

### Information Session

**Date:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Time:** 10.00am–2pm

**Place:** Helen's Place: 12a Leslie Rd, Middle Swan

## RSVP is required

For more information or to register please contact: Alison Senior on 0437 505 250 or Michael Akkermans on 0417 857 735. You can also email [michael.akkermans@risenetwork.com.au](mailto:michael.akkermans@risenetwork.com.au)

Download the flyer here: <http://wapsn.org.au/s/11-WAPSN-update-PWC-Flyer-October-2021.docx>



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## Men's Positive Mental Health for Positive Parenting

ConnectGroups is pleased to present their Mental Health Week Lived Experience Breakfast focusing on men and families promoting the theme of "Mental Health Starts with our Children". Come and listen to two speakers share their stories about mental health recovery, their experiences, fathers' roles, and the imperative of a father's positive mental health in order to be present as a positive parent for their children.

### About the Speakers:

**Craig Aird**, an ex-FIFO worker will speak about the challenges faced by resource workers around family wellbeing and raising children when separated from them.

**Andy Pittway** will speak openly about supporting his son's clinical depression while also struggling with his own. Andy now dedicates his life to promoting mental health awareness and education by sharing his story, journey, and lived experience to address stigma

### Event Details

**Date:** Tuesday 12/10/2021

**Time:** 7.30am–9.30am

**Venue:** AH Bracks Library, 431 Canning Highway, Melville WA 6156

**Cost:** Free

**RSVP is essential** register online at <https://www.trybooking.com/book/sessions?eid=803549>

See the ConnectGroups website for more information: <https://connectgroups.org.au/events/mental-health-week-mens-positive-mental-health-for-positive-parenting/>

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## How to Facilitate a Support Group

This workshop will define what makes an effective facilitator, roles and responsibilities, and troubleshooting tips. The session will also cover effective communication and dealing with conflict.

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

## Workshop Details

**Date:** Tuesday 26/10/2021

**Time:** 9.30am–12pm

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

**RSVP is required** you can book online at <https://www.trybooking.com/book/sessions?eid=757184>

See the ConnectGroups website for more information: <https://connectgroups.org.au/events/how-to-facilitate-a-sg/>

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## 2021 Peer Support Groups Award Presentation Evening

Join ConnectGroups Patron, Board of Management and staff in celebrating the work of the Support Group Sector and recognising the value of peer support. The event will include dinner and drinks, the launch of ConnectGroups' 2022–24 Support Group Sector Plan, the presentation of the 2021 Support Group Recognition Awards, recognition of key partnerships, plus entertainment throughout the night.

### Event Details

**Date:** Friday 15/10/2021

**Time:** 6.30pm – 11.30pm

**Venue:** Perth City Farm, 1 Perth City Place, East Perth WA 6004

**Cost:** \$27.50

**RSVP is essential** register online at <http://trybooking.com/book/sessions?eid=787360>

See the ConnectGroups website for more information: <https://connectgroups.org.au/2021-awards/>

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# Peer Workforce Opportunities

## Peer Work Project Manager – CoMHWA (Perth)

### About the role

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.

### Essential Criteria:

- Lived experience of mental health recovery.
- Excellent interpersonal, written and verbal communication skills with a strong team orientation and consumer focus.
- Demonstrated management skills relevant to Project planning, implementation and evaluation.
- Demonstrated capacity to work as part of a team on the basis of an ethos of collaboration, kindness, co-operation, respect and mutual support.
- Demonstrated skills/attributes in working with people with lived experience of mental health issues.

- Ability to work autonomously, use initiative and provide leadership of a team to accomplish required Project outcomes.
- Demonstrated analytical and problem solving skills in order to develop strategies, ideas and opportunities for resolving issues.
- Demonstrated ability to inspire and achieve change.

#### DESIRABLE

- Demonstrated peer leadership.
- Experience in providing peer supervision.
- Experience in working with people across a diversity of backgrounds.

To view the JDF and full selection criteria visit: <https://comhwa.org.au/s/Peer-Work-Project-Manager.pdf>

To apply: Applications should include a resume and a cover letter which addresses the selection criteria in the JDF. Please address your application to Shauna Gaebler, CEO and email to [admin@comhwa.org.au](mailto:admin@comhwa.org.au)

View the job on Seek.com.au <https://www.seek.com.au/job/54016723>

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## Education and Training Project Manager – CoMHWA (Perth)

### About the role

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.

### Essential Criteria:

- Lived experience of mental health recovery.
- Excellent interpersonal, written and verbal communication skills with a strong team orientation and consumer focus.
- Demonstrated management skills relevant to Project planning, implementation and evaluation.
- Demonstrated capacity to work as part of a team on the basis of an ethos of collaboration, kindness, co-operation, respect and mutual support.
- Demonstrated skills/attributes in working with people with lived experience of mental health issues.
- Ability to work autonomously, use initiative and provide leadership of a team to accomplish required Project outcomes.
- Demonstrated analytical and problem solving skills in order to develop strategies, ideas and opportunities for resolving issues.
- Demonstrated ability to inspire and achieve change.

#### DESIRABLE

- Demonstrated peer leadership.
- Experience in providing peer supervision.
- Experience in working with people across a diversity of backgrounds.

To view the JDF and full selection criteria visit: <https://comhwa.org.au/s/Education-and-Training-Project-Manager.pdf>

To apply: Applications should include a resume and a cover letter which addresses the selection criteria in the JDF. Please address your application to Shauna Gaebler, CEO and email to [admin@comhwa.org.au](mailto:admin@comhwa.org.au)

View the job on Seek.com.au <https://www.seek.com.au/job/54016710>

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## Private Peer Support Worker – Individual (Joondalup)

**Experienced Peer Support Worker** required in the Joondalup area. 5 hours of support per week with the days required being Wednesdays and Fridays.

I am seeking someone to provide Peer Support in meetings and procedures to take notes and assist with interpretation of psychiatric terms.

**Knowledge of Community Treatment Order is required**

Paid Meet and Greet offered.

Paid work commences 22.10.21 with a meeting that morning.

Any interested applicants should contact Jo Claire directly on 0466 581 509. Please do not leave a voicemail.

**This advert has been placed by an individual seeking a private Peer Supporter in the Joondalup region**

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## Peer Support Worker – The Wellness Initiative Pty Ltd (Perth)

The Wellness Initiative is driven to empower the community to create joy, wellbeing and meaning in life. We are a relatively new organisation that have been established since 2018 and are passionate about providing the best peer support services in the West Australian community. We have a team of passionate staff who all identify as having a journey with mental health recovery and work together to provide peer support to people who are ready for change and would like support to improve their wellbeing. The community is our office and we currently provide services in the Perth metropolitan area.

### The Team and The Role

The Peer Support Worker role is responsible for providing quality Peer Support to participants of The Wellness Initiative. Peer Support Workers support participants to develop their vision for wellness; and walk alongside them as they practice new skills to achieve a meaningful life. This position works in collaboration with the Founders to achieve the best possible outcomes for each participant whilst also upholding the Values and Ethics of WRAP Facilitation.

This role will be based in the community and participants' homes in the North metropolitan area. Social and recreational groups will also be provided in the community. The Wellness Initiative provides support to participants all days of the week to suit the goals and needs of the participants – however, work hours are flexible to other commitments that you may have.

This role will primarily be working alongside participants using their NDIS funds to access our services.

## Duties for this role will include:

- Supporting participants to develop an understanding of what living a good life means to them and create goals to match.
- Walking alongside participants and encourage them to achieve the goals that they have set for themselves with a recovery-focused mindset. Our aim is for participants to not require Peer Support in the long term.
- Providing one-to-one Wellness Recovery Action Plans to participants, as required.
- Drawing on personal lived experience of a mental health and wellbeing journey to offer hope of recovery to others.
- Attending regular supervision and team meetings.

To view the JDF and full selection criteria visit: <https://wellnessinitiative.com.au/we-are-hiring.html>

To Apply: please submit the following to [info@wellnessinitiative.com.au](mailto:info@wellnessinitiative.com.au)

- Your resume
- A cover letter and/or a video (five-minutes maximum) answering the following – “I am passionate about a role as a Peer Support Worker because...”

Applications without either a cover letter or video will not be considered.

View the complete job on Seek.com.au <https://www.seek.com.au/job/53887786>

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## Peer Support Worker – Neami National (Kalgoorlie)

### About the role

The Kalgoorlie Step Up/Step Down Service is a 10 bed, maximum 28 day stay facility, that provides a Step Up/Step Down option for people who are becoming unwell or are still recovering from an acute illness and need a short period of additional support and consolidation to complement their treatment and support. The Kalgoorlie Step Up/Step Down is operated by Neami in partnership with WA Country Health Service.

The Kalgoorlie Step Up/Step Down Service will accept referrals from the Goldfields region. During their stay consumers are assisted to develop a wellness plan including relapse prevention. The staff team at Kalgoorlie Step Up/Step Down will consist of a Manager, a Senior Practice Leader, Community Rehabilitation and Support Workers (CRSWs), an AOD Liaison Worker, Peer Support Worker (PSW), and Administration Support. The facility is staffed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and operates on a 7 day rotating roster consisting of morning and afternoon shifts.

### Essential Criteria:

- Lived experience of mental illness and demonstrated experience of recovery
- Demonstrated experience in facilitating groups
- Ability and willingness to work effectively as part of a team, to meet program goals and objectives.
- Knowledge of the recovery model for mental health

### Mandatory requirements:

- Current Working with Children Check
- Australian Working Rights
- Drivers licence



- Police check (refer to PD) – disclosable outcomes considered

To view the JDF and full selection criteria visit:

[https://static.ethicaljobs.com.au/media/1629953557\\_33OnE\\_.pdf](https://static.ethicaljobs.com.au/media/1629953557_33OnE_.pdf)

To Apply:

View the complete listing on Ethical Jobs: <https://www.ethicaljobs.com.au/members/neami/peer-support-worker-step-up-step-down-kalgoorlie>

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## Carer Peer Support Worker – HelpingMinds (Perth)

HelpingMinds is a highly regarded carer support and mental health services organisation, established over 40 years ago. Our compassionate team of staff and dedicated volunteers throughout the metro and regional areas, provide quality services and support to more than 10,000 children, youth, adults, and families affected by mental illness every year.

### About the role

The Carer Peer Support Worker provides emotional and practical support to carers on an individual and group basis. Assisting with identifying their needs for support and helping them to navigate their way through mental health services and discharge processes. Promoting hope for recovery of their loved one, choice and self-determination, they emphasise the importance of maintaining health using shared experiential knowledge, skills and strategies for caring for a person experiencing a mental health challenge.

To be considered for this role candidates will need to have the below essential qualifications and experience.

### Minimum qualifications:

- Cert IV Mental Health Peer Work OR substantial years of relevant experience
- National Police Clearance (valid within 6 months), Working With Children Check, Current Drivers License, Current First Aid Certificate

### Preferred experience:

- Lived experience as a family member/carer of a person with a diagnosed mental illness and the ability to utilise this experience constructively for the benefit of others
- Ability to support the concepts of recovery-oriented practice and understand the aspects of mental health services that may hinder recovery.
- An understanding of peer support, self-determination, person-centred care, ambiguous loss and the concept of carer empowerment.
- Demonstrated organisational and time management skills, including the ability to prioritise referrals and duties associated with the role.
- Well-developed communication skills including the ability to build relationships with carers and work in an empathetic way. Communication may be through in person, telephone, or remote working.
- Ability to work as a team with peer workers and Care Governance Lead offsite and based in different locations to ensure optimisation of the peer workforce and service delivery.

To view the JDF and full selection criteria visit:

[https://static.ethicaljobs.com.au/media/1630648653\\_8GxQk\\_.pdf](https://static.ethicaljobs.com.au/media/1630648653_8GxQk_.pdf)

For more information, contact the Recruitment team on 08 9427 7100

View the complete listing on Ethical Jobs: <https://www.ethicaljobs.com.au/members/arafmiwa/carer-peer-support-worker-1>

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## Support Worker – My Supports (Perth)

**My Supports** is a young dynamic and innovative disability service provider with teams all across Australia. We are a rapidly growing and evolving, peer-led organisation, committed to making a difference in the lives of individuals, with physical, developmental or cognitive disabilities.

### About the role

Working in Neighbourhood Teams in your very own community, under the direction of a Neighbourhood Team Leader, the Support Worker assists and supports our clients, in line with their NDIS plan, to achieve their goals through a person-centred approach of 'choice and control'. **We are currently recruiting Support Workers for existing roles across the Perth and Peel Metro Area**

The preferred candidate will have flexible availability as shifts can span the full week.

**To be successful in this role, the candidate would have:**

- An enthusiastic outlook, and a very open, friendly, bubbly personality;
- A compassionate and empathetic demeanour;
- Strong listening and oral communication skills and patience;
- Strong relationship-building skills;
- The ability to maintain clear professional boundaries;
- A National Disability Insurance Scheme Worker Orientation Module Certificate of Completion (**essential**);
- A Working With Children Check (**essential**);
- A C class license, access to a reliable vehicle and comprehensive insurance (**essential**);
- The ability to obtain a NDIS Worker Screening Check (**essential**);
- Experience or a Qualification in Disability Support (**essential**);

**To apply:** Applications should be submitted to the My Supports webpage. Link <https://mysupports.com.au/wa-application-form>

View the job on Seek.com.au <https://www.seek.com.au/job/53989607>

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## Of Interest

### Lived Experience (Peer) Workforce Project Workshops

The Mental Health Commission in partnership with key stakeholders is undertaking the Lived Experience (Peer) Workforce Project (Project). The Project aims to guide the development of a thriving state-wide peer workforce across the mental health (including suicide prevention) and alcohol and other drug sectors.

The Project will investigate and recommend how current peer workforce capacity could be optimised, reconfigured, enhanced, adapted or expanded as well as identifying where new peer work services and supports could be developed. The outcome of the Project, including a Framework and strategies to build capacity of and for the Peer Workforce, will be tailored to a WA context, ensuring the perspective and intricacies of both the mental health and alcohol and other drug sectors are reflected.

The Project will be informed in part by a series of four separate workshops for consumers, carers, peer workers and service providers, with a planned fifth workshop (on the 30 November) bringing everyone together to progress the outcomes of the Project. [Wellrounded](#) have been engaged to facilitate the workshops.

We are looking to engage five lived experience individuals to directly work with [wellrounded](#) in each of the workshops to inform, evolve and create direction for workshops. Additionally, individuals to help assist in the general running of the day including three peer supporters (for the face to face workshops only) and six general assistants to be meeters, greeters and runners (for the face to face workshops only).

**An invitation is extended to those who are new to working in the sector (paid or volunteer) or in the engagement space and would like to build their skills, knowledge, experience and confidence.**

#### **Requirements of the workshop roles include:**

Five assistants (one for each workshop) who are either a **peer worker, consumer, carer or family member with lived experience of mental health and or alcohol and other drugs issues**, who:

- Can commit to either online and/or in person workshops
- Are available for 3–4 hours per workshop on these date(s) in November:
  - consumer workshop, 4<sup>th</sup> (in person) and 30<sup>th</sup> (in person)
  - peer worker, 5<sup>th</sup> (online) and 30<sup>th</sup> (in person)
  - service provider, 8<sup>th</sup> (online) and 30<sup>th</sup> (in person)
  - family/carer workshop, 11<sup>th</sup> (online) and 30<sup>th</sup> (in person)
- Are willing to learn new ways of working and actively contribute
- Bring an open mind and positive attitude.

In line with the Commission's Consumer, Family, Carer and Community [Paid Participation Policy](#), people will be offered a minimum paid participation at \$75.00 per hour for workshop assistants and \$37.50 per hour for general assistants.

If you are interested in any of these roles, please register providing your:

- Your Name
- Email address
- Phone number
- Outline which role(s) you are interested in (directly work with wellrounded to evolve the workshops *or* general assistants).
- Confirm the dates (workshop) you are available on
- Lived Experience and/or Workforce (Peer) Experience – keep it brief please.
- Provide a short paragraph of why you are interested in the role, and what you hope to gain from the experience.

If you have any questions about the roles or workshops, please phone Tracy Wilson from [wellrounded](#) on 0447 170 768.

All application to be emailed to Louise or Phoebe at [engagement@mhc.wa.gov.au](mailto:engagement@mhc.wa.gov.au) by the close of business on the **11<sup>th</sup> of October**.

We value your interest in the Project , and should you not be selected to participate, you can keep informed of the progress of the Project and other ways to contribute through the Commission's website [here](#).

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## International Mad Studies Journal Website Launch

The International Mad Studies Journal (IMSJ) is a majority peer-reviewed academic journal which contributes to discussions and debate regarding ideologies and practices within mental health. In addition to peer reviewed articles, we seek out unique and unheard voices presented in creative platforms such as fictional writing, poetry, and other forms of artistry.

Academia and academic journals are often a space of exclusion – of mad voices and critical voices – but also of people whose path in life has not conformed to a traditional academic career, or who haven't had access to formal higher education, academic spaces, or ways of communicating. It is our intention to foster a space that is inclusive of mad voices and mad thinking, including voices that might be otherwise excluded. To this end, we think of ourselves as a community – of mad and critical thinking – rather than a faceless journal.

The first issue is expected in early 2022

Follow IMSJ on Twitter @IMSJournal <https://twitter.com/imsjournal> or view their website online <https://imsj.org/>

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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)