

# CoMHWA



**Consumers of Mental Health WA (Inc)**

## **Pathways to Mental Health Peer Work**

**2019 WA Guide**

Please note the following is for information only. It is not a recommendation or endorsement of any particular pathway, program or organisation. If your group or organisation assists with pathways to peer work but is not listed here, please contact CoMHWA.

**Want to stay in touch with peer work news and opportunities?  
Contact CoMHWA to subscribe to our newsletter on [admin@comhwa.org.au](mailto:admin@comhwa.org.au)  
or (08) 9258 8911**

## 1. Volunteering

Volunteering to assist others can help to build confidence, skills and experience for Peer Work, such as:

- Joining and contributing to a peer support group - a directory of groups is available by Connect Groups at <http://www.connectgroups.org.au> or 9364 6909. Carers WA and Helping Minds offers additional peer support groups for families and carers.
- Befriending / social programs for mental health consumers, such as Compeer by St Vincent De Paul Ph: (08) 9475 5400; Community Connections by Uniting Care West Ph: 1300 663 298.
- A range of other volunteering roles can be found at local Volunteer Resource Centres, at Volunteering WA <http://www.volunteeringwa.org.au> or Ph: 1800 678 114 or with organisations such as Befriend <https://befriend.org.au/>

## 2. Short Courses and Groups

There are a variety of short training workshops and groups offered in WA that can help to build knowledge and skills for Peer Work. For example:

- **Rise Community Network** - Introduction to Peer Work program <http://www.risenetwork.com.au> (08) 6274 3700
- **WA Peer Supporters Network** - An ongoing group hosted by CoMHWA that meets every 2 months for peer supporters to learn and network together. Join the Network via CoMHWA <http://www.comhwa.org.au/wapsn> or (08) 9258 8911
- **Lorikeet Centre** - A member centre for consumers featuring peer support and regular guest speakers about topics such as employment, advocacy and housing. <http://www.mifwa.org.au> or (08) 9237 8951
- **CoMHWA** - A range of peer education short courses, such as sharing your recovery story, consumer advocacy and group facilitation skills. <http://www.comhwa.org.au> or (08) 9258 8911
- **Richmond Wellbeing** - A range of mental health and recovery short courses. <http://www.rw.org.au> or (08) 9350 8800
- **MIFWA** - A range of recovery short courses and groups for consumers, families and carers. <http://www.mifwa.org.au> or (08) 9237 8900
- **Peer Zone** - A recovery education program offered by and for consumers.  
[Note: Peer Zone is a program offered by various groups. Visit their website for further information <https://www.peerzone.info/>
- **WAAMH** - A range of mental health recovery short courses. <http://www.waamh.org.au> or (08) 6246 3000

### 3. Applying Directly for Paid Work

Some Peer Workers still successfully secure jobs in the industry without the Cert IV Mental Health Peer Work. Volunteering and industry relevant short courses (above) are helpful for those wishing to enter paid work prior to Cert IV attainment.

### 4. Dual Cert IV Pathway

Completing a Certificate IV in related qualifications (e.g. Alcohol and Other Drugs, Community Services, Mental Health) can assist with units of attainment towards the Cert IV Mental Health Peer Work (MHPW) course. It can also assist with gaining work in the industry as you move towards a vocation in peer work.

The Cert IV Mental Health shares more units with the Cert IV MHPW than other Cert IV qualifications. We recommend you discuss these alternative pathway options with current Cert IV MHPW provider, North Metropolitan TAFE. Contact is Tracey Hennessy Ph: 9233 1102 or [tracey.hennessy@nmtafe.wa.edu.au](mailto:tracey.hennessy@nmtafe.wa.edu.au)

### 5. Recognition of Prior Learning Pathway

North Metropolitan TAFE is still in process of developing its recognition of prior learning arrangements for this Peer Work course. If you have relevant qualifications and/or work experience, these may contribute to some or all units of attainment to the Cert IV Mental Health Peer Work.

### 6. Cert IV Mental Health Peer Work Providers

In WA North Metropolitan TAFE is the only one current course provider for people wishing to undertake face to face course delivery. There are no enrolments open for this course at this time as all course places North Metro TAFE will be allocated to those who are awarded a CoMHWA scholarship.

Other interstate (online) or specific providers are:

- **HTA WA** (traineeship only) <http://www.htawa.com.au> or (08) 9273 3033
- **Health Industry Training** <http://www.healthindustrytraining.org> or 1300 381 415
- **Spectrum Training** <http://www.spectrumtraining.edu.au> or (07) 3881 3310
- **TrainSmart** <https://www.tsa.edu.au/courses/community-service> or 1300 855 517