



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 the March edition of the WA Peer Supporters' newsletter for 2022!
Apologies for cross-postings and please feel free to distribute to networks.

WAPSN Latest News

Next up on Speaker Series

Lena Van Hale, the current manager, of Magenta – Sex Worker Support Project for WA. Magenta is a peer-based project dedicated to providing services to support and promote the health and safety of people involved in the sex industry in Western Australia, and Lena will be coming to have a chat about the amazing Peer Work that Magenta does.

Date: 21/04/2022

Time: 10am–12.30pm

Place: 14/257 Belmont Avenue, Cloverdale 6105

RSVP: is necessary, please contact info@peersupportwa.org.au by 18/04/22 to register your interest by

February WAPSN Member of the Month:

Renai Searle



Renai has a rich history with grassroots and peer-led movements, where she has worked hard alongside others to establish supports and connection for those in the community. Renai currently coordinates the CoMHWA Peer Pathways team, supporting West Australians with their navigation needs from a Peer perspective.

This month we take a moment to recognise the amazing efforts of Renai, who has been a behind-the-scenes champion for WAPSN in the last couple of years. Sadly, this month we also say a heartfelt goodbye from WAPSN, as Renai now moves onto new adventures with her family and career. We all thank Renai from the bottom of our hearts for the great work she has put into keeping us all connected and wish her the best as she moves into new things.

In 2022, WAPSN will be posting a member of the month each newsletter to highlight some of the amazing peer workers we have in the industry. If you would like to submit a nomination for yourself or someone you work with, please forward a photo of the nominee and a small paragraph about the great work they're doing!

Events and Training

WA Peer Supporters' Network Meetings are back in 2022!

For anyone with an interest in learning about Peer Support and developing their Peer Work practice skills. This Event will be an ONLINE event, Please RSVP to receive link.

Date: 17th March

Time: 10:30am–12.00pm

Place: ONLINE

RSVP: info@peersupportwa.org.au or call 9258 8911

Upcoming Peer Work Training Courses at CoMHWA

ASPIRE:

The next round of CoMHWA's ASPIRE training has opened its expressions of interest for the next round!

Do you want to work as a Peer Support Worker? Have you got some experience already, through studying, volunteering, or informal peer groups? Are you looking for some extra support to help you get and keep a job in Peer Work? Then ASPIRE is for you!

ASPIRE is a 12-week program, combining six training modules; an eight-week work placement, and a debrief of your learning. It is an unpaid training and work experience program, and you will need to be available for 16 hours per week during the program dates.

See more information at <https://comhwa.org.au/programs/aspire>

Intentional Disclosure of Lived Experience:

When: Wednesday, 23 March 2022, at 10:30 am – 3:30 pm

Where: 14/275 Belmont Avenue Cloverdale, WA, 6105

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.

See more information at <https://comhwa.org.au/events/intentional-disclosure-of-lived-experience>

Peer Workforce Opportunities in Perth Metro:

RUAH – Peer Recovery Worker

Ruah are recruiting a part time Peer Recovery Worker to work at Fiona Stanley Hospital. Hours of work are 15.2 hours per week, Thursday & Friday 8am–4pm. This is a fixed term position until 30 June 2022 with an extension depending on funding.

Closing date for applications– 4pm, Monday 7 March 2022

[Click here to view the full advert](#)

Outcare – Family Carer Peer

Ideally Full-time but will consider 0.6 for the right candidate

Fixed term contract till the **30/06/2023** (extension subject to program contract renewal)

The Start Court Family Carer Peer is part of a multi-disciplinary team that includes several Outcare roles and other agencies including the Department of Health and the Department of Justice.

The Family Carer Peer brings the voice of lived experience to help program participant family members and carers to engage the supports they need to care for the person they support. This can be emotional and

practical support. The goal of this position is to help family members and carers of program participants to access the resources they need to care for the person they support.

Applications close 5pm, 11th March 2022

[Click here to view the full advert](#)

MIFWA – Parent Peer Support Worker

This role is casual, 16 hours per week with flexible days and based out of our Kingsley office. Applicants require a lived experience of mental illness and recovery and experience in parenting.

This role will see you promote, encourage, facilitate and support effective information provision, recovery activities and access to local community services which support and/or assist parents who have a mental illness to thrive in life and increase their resilience.

[Click here to view the full advert](#)

Peer Workforce Opportunities in WA Regional areas:

Kununurra – Government: Senior Health Professional Mental Health Adult

We are currently seeking a Full Time Senior Health Professional – Mental Health to provide advanced allied health community mental health services to adult clients of the KMHDS which is based on best practice. They will also provide a service, which is culturally secure and takes into account the emotional, social and spiritual well-being of clients, oversee Safe Haven Café & manage Peer Support Workforce staff.

Closing date for applications– 4pm, Tuesday 8 March 2022

[Click here to view the full advert](#)

Of Interest

Have Your Say with CoMHWA: Seeking Voices of Older Adults

CoMHWA invites older Australians to participate in a paid focus group opportunity. We are seeking information on Older adult mental health and wellbeing services that exist in Western Australia and we want to hear from you!

If you or someone you know has information to share with our Peer Pathways team, please register to attend – maximum attendees 20.

At this stage we are planning face-to-face and online but may change to wholly online due to the evolving COVID situation.

Date: 10th March 2022

Time: 10 – 12pm (catering provided)

Place: CoMHWA Training Room – 14/275 Belmont Avenue, Cloverdale

RSVP: essential to admin@comhwa.org.au or call us on 9258 8911

If you would like to have the opportunity for an individual discussion please contact admin@comhwa.org.au and we can facilitate this.

ALIVE – Lived Experience (Consumer) and Carer Priorities for Mental Health Research

The ALIVE National Centre for Mental Health Research Translation is looking for people with a lived experience to have their say in the future of national research priorities. The survey asks participants to list their priorities for mental health research.

[You can take part in their short survey here](#)

2022 National Carers Survey

In 2022, we are again asking carers around Australia to tell us about their lives in the Carer Wellbeing Survey. This year, we are focusing on understanding the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for carers, and the level of access different carers have to support services for themselves and the people they care for.

The survey is voluntary, confidential, and anonymous, and closes on Thursday, 10th March 2022, at 11.59pm.

[Take part in the 2022 National Carers Survey here.](#)

Participant First Engagement Initiative: help shape the NDIS

Body The Participant First Engagement Initiative helps us to connect with participants, families, carers and non-participants with disabilities to hear your feedback, so we can work together on improving the Scheme.

We want to draw on your lived experience of disability to help improve the NDIS for everyone. We are looking for a mix of participants, families and carers for a range of future opportunities that may include; online and email feedback, one on one or small group discussions or, working directly with project teams to design a product or policy.

Sign up by completing the [Participant First information form.](#)

[Learn more.](#)

Walkern Katatdjin (Rainbow Knowledge) Survey

Walkern Katatdjin is a national research project that aims to understand and promote the mental health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Asexual + young people, and to work with services to develop appropriate interventions.

Take part in this online national survey of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQA+ young people's mental health and social emotional wellbeing.

[Complete the survey here](#)

The Private Hospitals and Health Services Act – Legislation Consultation

The *Private Hospitals and Health Services Act 1927* (the Act) and the *Private Hospitals (Licensing and Conduct of Private Psychiatric Hostels) Regulations 1997* govern 31 psychiatric hostels in Western Australia caring for over 700 hostel residents at any one time.

The current legislation has been in place since 1927 and while changes have been made over time, a full update is now required.

There are many ongoing issues that require changes within the legislation to make it contemporary. Stakeholder feedback is sought on proposed changes that:

- identify gaps and to give clear guidance to the scope of the Act
- establish powers regarding unlicensed facilities
- clarify interaction with the National Disability Insurance Scheme
- help streamline and simplify administrative processes
- remove unnecessary duplication between Regulations and Standards
- identify areas that require increased flexibility to keep it contemporary.

A new Act will harmonise terminology used in other WA and interstate legislation; we anticipate the new Act will come into effect in 2023.

[To read more on this and to complete the survey please view here](#)

Peer Support Groups

If you know of a Peer Support group that you'd like to share, please forward all information to info@peersupportwa.org.au

DISCHARGED: In-person Trans and Gender Diverse DISCHARGED Suicide Peer Support Group



When: Mondays 6.30pm–8pm

Cost: Free – No referral needed – New people welcome

This is a weekly DISCHARGED suicide peer support group for *trans and gender diverse people* every Monday at 6:30pm in West Leederville, Perth Western Australia.

The group is a space for people to talk about, vent, sit with, or make sense of suicidal experiences. We are also free to talk about our distress or the things which make us want to die, without fearing hospitalisation or the police being called.

We keep this group's details hidden off public pages to ensure it is safe for trans people to access – **please send us an email at info@discharge.org.au to join this group.**

Peer Support for those who have family or friends living with Mental Health Challenges

Talk with others who know what you're going through . . .

A peer-led informal support group for anyone with a family member or friend experiencing mental health challenges. Join us in a safe space where you can express yourself and listen to the experiences of other carers.



When: Every second Friday of the month | 10am – 12pm

11 February, 11 March, 8 April, 13 May, 10 June, 8 July, 12 August, 9 September, 14 October, 11 November

Where: HelpingMinds Office, 182 Lord Street, Perth

Who: Adults who are supporting a family member or a friend experiencing mental health challenges.

Cost: Free | Registration essential | Morning tea provided

For more information contact us on [\(08\) 9427 7100](tel:0894277100) or cyfs@helpingminds.org.au

Mission Australia: NDIS Peer Support groups

Mission Australia hosts NDIS peer support groups both in person and online across Perth in 4 locations. These groups come together frequently to talk about their experiences with NDIS and get support with any challenges that they may be facing.

[Click here for more information](#)

Grief Centre Support Groups



At the Grief Centre, our Support Groups allow you the opportunity to listen and/or share your feelings in a safe and supportive setting. They help reduce feelings of isolation and make it possible to recognise how grief is both universal and yet differs for everyone. Understanding grief and its effects can help you to cope more effectively and support those around you while still protecting your own grieving process.

Our Support Groups are for anyone who is grieving, no matter when or how the loss occurred.

[Click here for more information](#)

DO YOU NEED HELP NAVIGATING SERVICES IN WA?

PeerPathways

A free, confidential, statewide phone line for all West Australians experiencing mental health challenges.

 **9477 2809** Mon-Fri
9am-5pm

We Can Help!



Peer Pathways is not a crisis line.

If you are currently experiencing distress please call Lifeline on 13 11 14.

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