



QLEWN and MHLEPQ Join Forces

The Queensland Lived Experience Workforce Network (QLEWN) and Mental Health Lived Experience Peak Queensland (MHLEPQ) have commenced a joint project to improve understanding of the psychosocial hazards facing consumer Lived Experience peer workers.

Both QLEWN and the MHLEPQ made submissions to last year's *Parliamentary Select Committee Inquiry into Opportunities to Improve Mental Health Outcomes* for Queenslanders calling for a significant expansion of the Lived Experience workforce and better support for peer workers.

QLEWN stated:

"QLEWN recommends the Queensland Government provide urgent funding and other supports needed for the immediate support of the growing Lived Experience Workforce."

MHLEPQ called for better and more defined recognition of peer workers in the mental health system, but also recognition of the workplace hazards faced by peer workers including stress and moral injury.

"Being ignored and not able to do our job can create moral injury for us (Peer Workers) as we know the potential impact of our role on consumers."

In a joint project QLEWN and MHLEPQ will oversee the development of a policy or position statement on the impact of psychosocial hazards on consumer peer workers in Queensland.

The project will identify the unique psychosocial hazards faced by Lived Experience Peer workers in Queensland and what could be done to manage these hazards systemically.

The project will run for six months and will collect data through interviews, focus groups and surveys. It will be co-led by our two organisations and overseen by a Project Advisory Committee of Lived Experience consumers.

Peer workers who wish to be part of this project can contact either QLEWN projects@qlewn.org.au or MHLEPQ engagement@mhlepq.org.au.

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