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Peer Workforce Resources

Peer Workforce Development Strategy
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RESOURCES

Peer Work Hub

An initiative of the Mental Health Commission of New South Wales, the *Peer Work Hub* is an online resource with helpful guides, toolkits and videos to support organisations wanting to develop and grow their peer workforces.

Health Workforce Australia

The Mental Health Peer Workforce Study was conducted to provide a national picture of the mental health peer workforce and identify opportunities to strengthen and develop the peer workforce as an important component of quality, recovery-focused mental health services.

The Mental Health Peer Workforce Literature Scan draws out issues relating to the mental health peer workforce from the recent academic and grey literature, to inform the Peer Workforce Study.

Centre of Excellence in Peer Support

The CEPS provides a centralised specialist clearinghouse and online resource centre for mental health peer support and access to a range of research and resources.

The Charter of Peer Support was developed to ensure that peer support services are available to consumers and carers when and where it is needed. It outlines the growing evidence base for peer work and calls for continued recognition and development of peer support services in mental health.

Peer Workforce Development Guidelines

The National Mental Health Commission is leading the development of guidance for governments, employers and the peer workforce about support structures required to sustain and grow the workforce. The development of national guidelines is to ensure consistency across Australia and a further step towards professionalisation of the peer workforce.

Western Australian Association for Mental Health

WAAMH developed a Peer Work Strategic Framework to support a consistent approach to developing and supporting peer work in Western Australia. It includes online references for information, toolkits and other resources to support organisations to successfully introduce peer work roles into their programs and organisational structures.

FNQ Peer Workforce – Valuing Lived Experience

This framework has been developed from an industry perspective to provide direction to policy makers, decision makers, organisations and peer workers. It provides practical information

about what peer work is, how to support peer practice, what organisation should do if they are thinking of employing peer workers, and some recommendations to progress the peer workforce.

Scottish Recovery Network
A range of free resources to support people and organisations to develop peer roles is available on this website, including guidelines to support the development of peer worker roles.

EVIDENCE BASE

There is a growing body of evidence that supports the value of mental health peer workers. Studies confirm that peer work is an evidence-based practice and that peer worker provided, recovery-oriented, mental health services are highly valued by the people who use them and produce outcomes as good as and, in some cases, superior to, services from non–peer professionals[1]:

- Bell, Panther & Pollock, *Establishing an effective peer workforce: A literature review*, 2014.

- Cox, *Peer delivered wellness recovery services: From evidence to widespread implementation*, 2011

- Davidson et al., *Peer Support among Persons with severe mental illnesses: a review of evidence and experience,* 2012.

- C Gallagher, & M Halpin, *The Lived Experience Workforce in South Australian Public Mental Health Services,* 2014.

- *Mental Health Professional Online Development, Australia's online professional development resource, Peer worker roles: rationale and evidence, n.d.*

- National Mental Health Commission and Community Mental Health Australia, Resource Book 1: *Foundations of Peer Work (Training Resources for Certificate IV Mental Health Peer Work),* 2015.

- Peer support resources, *The Evidence*

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[1] Peer Work Hub (2016) http://peerworkhub.com.au/the-case-for-peer-work/evidence-base/.

- SAMHSA, *Consumer-Operated Services Evidence-Based Practices Kit,* 2011.

- Trachtenberg et al., *Peer Support in mental health care: is it good value for money?,* 2013.

AROUND THE WORLD

New Zealand
The expansion of peer roles is a priority for the Ministry of Health – *Rising to the Challenge, The Mental Health and Addiction Service Development Plan 2012–2017.*

Canada
The Mental Health Commission of Canada is driving the development of Canada's mental health peer workforce - *Making the case for peer support.*

United Kingdom
The employment of peer workers and peer support is recognised and promoted. The Scottish Recovery Network (SRN) produces resources and guidelines to support the development of peer work roles and the peer workforce including:
- *Reviewing Peer Working: A New Way of Working in Mental Health*
- *Experts by Experience: Values Framework for Peer Working*
- *Experts by Experience Implementation Guidelines*

USA
Peer work is being recognised as an evidence-based mental health practice with services of certified (accredited) Peer Specialists are offered.

Hong Kong
Hospitals have begun to employ people with lived experience as paid peer support staff, trained through internships.