

# Seeking Expressions of Interest from Lived Experience Technical Experts

Lived Experience Leadership Strategy Project

**OFFICIAL**

## Background

### The Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System

The Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System (the Royal Commission) found that the mental health system has failed to serve the needs of consumers and their families, carers and supporters through poor access, high rates of coercion and a narrow range of hospital-based and clinical services.

It highlighted lived experience (LE) led service delivery and partnership in decision making across the mental health system as a key strategy for reform.

Among its recommendations were the establishment of LE leadership in the Mental Health and Wellbeing Division, the Victorian Collaborative Centre, Regional Boards, and the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission; new LE led agencies and services; LE workforce development; and system wide leadership.

Recommendations 28 and 30 focus on developing and delivering mental health services led by people with lived experience of mental illness or psychological distress along with developing system-wide involvement of families, carers and supporters.

### The Lived Experience Leadership Strategy Project

The LE Leadership Strategy Project (the project) will create an ambitious strategy and implementation plan for LE leadership in the Victorian mental health and alcohol and drug (AOD) service system over the next ten years.

The project seeks to answer the following questions about LE workforce, partnerships and leadership:

- How do we define LE workforce, partnerships and leadership?
- What is the current state of LE workforce, partnerships and leadership?
- What is the vision for the roles, functions and numbers needed across the system in ten years' time?
- Where are the gaps and what are the barriers that need to be overcome?
- What are the strategic levers for getting from where we are today to the vision?
- How are we going to address the barriers and use the strategic levers to implement the vision?

The LE Leadership Strategy will encompass lived and living experience leadership across the mental health and AOD sectors (including harm reduction).

The LE Leadership Strategy will be developed in collaboration with the Mental Health and Wellbeing Division’s Lived Experience Branch, a LE Lead Agency (SHARC) that will support and coordinate a LE Technical Expert Team, mental health consumer and carer peak bodies as well as AOD service user peaks.

## Work planned or underway

A number of pieces of work are underway to inform the LE Leadership Strategy including:

- A literature review of LE workforce, partnerships and leadership
- An analysis on the Royal Commission narrative and recommendations to bring together their intentions for LE leadership and identified gaps in one document
- Scoping for organisational supports, including details around supports organisations need to embed LE leadership and partnership
- Bringing together LE technical experts from a range of perspectives (AOD, family/carers, harm reduction, consumer) that will be engaged to work alongside a Project Coordinator to deliver this project (the subject of this EOI)
- Engagement and support of LE technical experts: SHARC will engage and support the LE technical experts to undertake components of the work. SHARC will act as a conduit between the LE technical experts and the Project Coordinator.

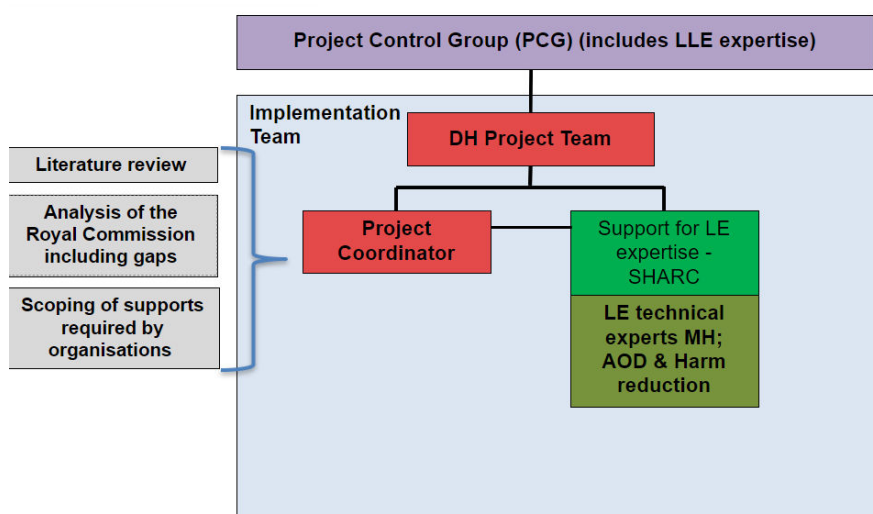
## Project governance and implementation

The project is overseen by a project control group comprising representatives from lived and living experience peaks, the Victorian Collaborative Centre, the Mental Health Wellbeing Commission, the Department’s Lived Experience Branch and others.

Outputs from projects currently underway will be provided to the Project Coordinator (currently being appointed), who will work with SHARC to ensure the project is led by the LE technical experts contributing to the project.

Governance and each of the components of the project are outlined in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1. Lived Experience Leadership Strategy Project: Governance and components



## LE Lead Agency

A number of challenges were identified in the initial stages of planning and commissioning the project. They include:

- There is high demand for LE technical expertise and no plans in place to support growing capacity – this is leading to stress and burn out for LE technical experts taking up contracts.
- There are very few LE technical experts that are available to lead this project end-to-end.
- Self-organised collaborations were often not able to include the breadth of LLE expertise required for the project.
- LE technical experts/contractors tend to be sole traders without access to infrastructure and support that larger consultancies have.
- Current Department of Health (DH) procurement processes and timelines are challenging to meet.

To address some of these challenges and to explore a new model for engaging LE technical experts, DH has funded SHARC to engage, contract and support LE technical experts to contribute to the project as well as engaging a Project Coordinator to lead the elements that don't require LLE leadership/technical expertise.

SHARC (Self Help Addiction Resource Centre) was nominated to act as the LE Lead agency on behalf of other LE peak bodies - Tandem, VMIAC and Harm Reduction Victoria. SHARC's role is to liaise between the Project Coordinator, the DH project team and the LE technical experts to ensure that project planning and implementation is led by the LE technical experts, with support provided by the project Coordinator.

SHARC will also provide (or coordinate) supervision and supports for LE technical experts.

The exact supports and ways of working will be developed with the LE technical experts engaged to contribute to the project.

## Seeking Expressions of Interest from LE Technical Experts

### Experienced LE Technical Experts

The project is seeking a number of experienced LE technical experts that have extensive experience in working from lived and/or living experience, particularly at strategic and systems levels. A team of LE technical experts will be assembled to bring the following lived or living expertise:

- Mental Health Consumer
- Mental Health Family/Carer
- Harm Reduction
- Alcohol and other Drug - Consumer
- Alcohol and other Drug – Family/Carer

LE technical experts will contribute to project planning with the project coordinator and will have the opportunity to contribute to the project in ways that best suit their expertise and availability. Examples of activity the LE technical experts would be involved in include – development of the project plan; review of the literature review, data, the Royal Commission report analysis, and other background materials; integrating this work into the strategy; planning and conducting an environmental scan across approximately 30 organisations; assessing and promoting LE leadership models for showcase to the sector; and supporting development of emerging LE technical experts involved in the project.

LE technical experts must be available for project planning in July 2023, and contributions to the project can be negotiated with individuals based on interest, area of expertise and availability.

Experts will be paid, and rates will be determined based on level of experience and expertise (TBC).

It is likely that LE technical experts will require an ABN (registering for an ABN is free and you can apply online).

## Emerging LE Technical Experts

The project is also making available places for emerging LE technical experts and people that are considering taking up similar work on a contract basis and would like to have a learning experience whilst contributing to the project. The LE lead agency, LE technical experts and the Project Coordinator will provide dedicated learning and development opportunities for these roles. The emerging experts will bring either of the perspectives outlined above.

There is no specific work experience requirement for this role, however experience in LE work, strategic policy or project work would be an advantage.

Emerging experts will be paid with rates to be determined.

## Key criteria for all LE Technical Experts (emerging and experienced)

All LE technical experts will need to meet the following criteria:

- Lived and/or living experience of mental illness or psychological distress and/or drug and alcohol or related challenges (either own personal experience or as a family member/carer)
- Knowledgeable about lived experience perspectives and lived experience movements
- Commitment to culture change across the mental health and AOD sectors
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate with people with differing opinions to complete projects
- Self-awareness of support needs and ability to articulate needs/supports
- Available full or part-time during business hours for duration of project (approximately August 2023 to November 2023)

## Criteria for experienced LE technical experts

Experienced LE technical experts will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Relevant experience working from lived or living experience perspective
- Ability to drive change through the design and delivery of programs and strategies that embed LE
- Demonstrated leadership in relevant LE area – service delivery, academia, consumer, carer/family, AOD, harm reduction, organisational change, education and training
- Several years' experience working from LE perspective
- Ability to contribute to collection and analysis of information for strategy development
- Demonstrated ability to contribute to strategic projects (optional)
- Experience in data analysis (optional)

## References

Please provide personal references to support your expression of interest. This could be a written reference or the contact details of a personal referee that can be contacted via phone or email.

## Safety screening

Appointments to the LE technical expert pool will be subject to pre-employment checks conducted by SHARC. This may include pre-employment misconduct screening, and national criminal records checks.

Disclosable Outcomes: Should a disclosable outcome be reported from a completed criminal history check, the result will be referred to the CEO of SHARC. This outcome does not automatically exclude an applicant. The CEO will discuss the outcome with the applicant and decide on an appropriate course of action. They will base this decision on review of the nature of the outcome for relevance to the position sought by the applicant. Issues for consideration include the following:

- Time since offences
- The nature of the offence
- The number of offences
- Whether the offences are of a high-risk nature to SHARC such as violence, sexual offences, fraud.

The CEO will advise the applicant if it has been determined that they are unsuitable for the position and give transparent honest reasons as to the rationale for the decision.

## Information session

An online information session will be hosted by the Department and SHARC, in partnership with LE agencies VMIAC, Tandem and Harm Reduction Victoria, for people interested in being involved as LE technical experts (emerging and experienced). The information session will be held online on:

**Wednesday 12 July from 10am to 11am**

### How to attend the session

If you would like to attend the session, please email Angela Thiel at [Angela.G.Thiel@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:Angela.G.Thiel@health.vic.gov.au) to receive a link to the meeting.

If you are unable to attend the session but would like to receive a copy of the slides, please email Angela Thiel at [Angela.G.Thiel@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:Angela.G.Thiel@health.vic.gov.au) to request this.

## Further information

People interested in being involved can also contact the people below for further information:

### **Lived Experience Branch, Department of Health**

Angela Thiel (*Mondays to Wednesdays*)

Principal Policy Advisor

[Angela.G.Thiel@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:Angela.G.Thiel@health.vic.gov.au)

(03) 9500 6915

Emma Cadogan

Manager, Lived Experience Policy

[Emma.Cadogan@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:Emma.Cadogan@health.vic.gov.au)

(03) 8633 4967

### **SHARC**

Nicole Thompson

Acting Chief Executive Officer

[nthompson@sharc.org.au](mailto:nthompson@sharc.org.au)

0401 754 477

### **Harm Reduction Victoria**

Sione Crawford

Chief Executive Officer

[sionec@hrvic.org.au](mailto:sionec@hrvic.org.au)

(03) 9329 1500

### **Tandem**

Marie Piu

Chief Executive Officer

[Marie.Piu@tandemcarers.org.au](mailto:Marie.Piu@tandemcarers.org.au)

(03) 8803 5555

### **VMIAC**

Craig Wallace

Chief Executive Officer

[Craig.Wallace@vmiac.org.au](mailto:Craig.Wallace@vmiac.org.au)

0499 176 939

## EOI form

Please complete the information in this form and submit to [Angela.G.Thiel@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:Angela.G.Thiel@health.vic.gov.au) by end of day **Sunday 23 July 2023**

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Contact email</b>	
<b>Contact phone</b>	
<b>Available for duration of program</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, available from Mid-July to October 2023 <input type="checkbox"/> No, not available <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to be considered for other project opportunities that might align with my skills and experience
<b>Available time for the project</b> Eg, 0-5 hours per week; 5-10 hours per week	
<b>Available for metro/regional engagement?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Metro <input type="checkbox"/> Regional <input type="checkbox"/> Both metro and regional
<b>LLE perspective</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Consumer <input type="checkbox"/> Carer/family/supporter <input type="checkbox"/> AOD <input type="checkbox"/> Harm reduction
<b>Specialist LE experience (select all that apply)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Academia/research <input type="checkbox"/> Service delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Education and training <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy and policy development <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce development <input type="checkbox"/> Organisational change <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)
<b>Relevant other expertise (select all that apply)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Data collection and analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration (co-design and co-production) <input type="checkbox"/> Project management <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement and communication <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specific)
<b>Relevant sector/community connections or affiliations</b>	

<b>Years of experience LLE work</b>	
<b>Short description of experience with relevant projects/work</b>	
<b>Short outline of interest in project</b>	
<b>Name and contact details of referee/s</b> (or attach written references)	
<b><i>Experienced LE technical experts only</i></b>	
<i>ABN</i>	
<i>Expected daily rate</i>	

To receive this document in another format, phone 03 8633 4967, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email [livedexperiencebranch@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:livedexperiencebranch@health.vic.gov.au)

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