

LLEW Training Projects Consumer Advisory Group - Expression of Interest

Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council (VMIAC) is an organisation for people with a lived experience of mental health or emotional challenges across all of Victoria. We refer to these individuals, particularly those who have needed to access relevant support and services, as consumers. You can read more about what a consumer is here: www.vmiac.org.au/info/about-consumers/.



VMIAC is run for consumers, by consumers, which means all staff members who work at VMIAC identify as consumers by having their own lived or living experience of mental health and/or emotional challenges.

VMIAC has a Lived and Living Experience Workforce (LLEW) team who have been funded by the Department of Health to deliver twelve (12) projects that are in response to the Royal Commission into Mental Health. (<https://finalreport.rcvmhs.vic.gov.au/recommendations/>). Some of these projects are focussed on training LLEW in Victoria, and so we are creating a Consumer Advisory Group to inform what this training might look like to be accessible, trauma informed and following best practice.

A consumer advisory group is a space where multiple consumers come together and share their valuable lived and living experience to provide guidance and advice on the trainings being offered. When someone shares their experiences in this setting, their feedback and advice is referred to as their consumer perspective.

Consumers in the advisory group will meet online four (4) times in a twelve (12) month period, in a space hosted by a VMIAC staff member to share their consumer perspective on set topics related to training.

Who should take part?

- People who currently reside in Victoria
- Individuals who have experienced mental health challenges, trauma or emotional distress and/or who may have accessed mental health or other related services specifically to support their mental wellbeing.
- Individuals who identify with any of the following are welcomed and encouraged
 - First Nations and Indigenous Peoples
 - People of Colour
 - Individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, including individuals with migrant or refugee and asylum seeker experiences
 - Individuals who are disabled or identify as having a disability
 - Individuals who identify as Neurodiverse
 - Individuals with Sensory loss, Deaf/deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind/Vision impaired
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex, queer, Asexual and other identities (LGBTIQA+)
- We are hoping to hear from a diverse representation of home settings eg. housing instability, share houses, single parents, nuclear families ect.

Payment and Participation

- There will be four meetings, taking up to two hours each meeting and one hour of reading time, taking place over 12 months.
- Dates to be confirmed, meetings to potentially take place in March, May, July & October.
- This will be paid at the half day participation rate for up to 3 hours work each time, paid at \$180 per group attendance.
- Meetings will all take place online, using Zoom.
- The group will strive to be inclusive of diverse voices and discrimination will not be tolerated. The first meeting will be used to create a group agreement to make sure this is possible, and we will revisit this agreement at the start of each meeting.
- Individuals who participate in the advisory groups will be offered a place in one of the trainings offerings if they have not completed them in the past. This will occur separate to the four advisory groups.
- The facilitators of this group will endeavour to ensure transparency and safety for all contributing to this work and acknowledge the power imbalance and the differences in living experience. The facilitators recognise their limitation of understanding as white people, and hope to be genuine in their approach, be taught, be humble in learning and follow the wisdom of the group.

How to join

The application for this advisory group will be open until 10PM Wednesday January 31st 2024.

We will be unable to accept late applications. All individuals who apply to join the group will be contacted by Wednesday 14th February to be informed of the outcome.

Please note that the consumer advisory group will be open to a maximum of 8 members and therefore there is not a guarantee that your expression of interest will be accepted at this time.

We are hoping to hear from a range of voices including those who possibly haven't participated in an advisory group before. If you are passionate about inclusive training and capacity building for the LLEW we encourage you to apply. We will endeavour to make this a comfortable and safe space for learning and developing skillsets to use your voice and experience.

Please complete the questions at <https://form.jotform.com/233518679913064> or if you need assistance to express interest, please contact Jet Atlas or Hannah Tucker at LLEW@vmiac.org.au or 03 9380 3900

Please check you have entered your contact details in correctly. If you'd like to provide feedback on this process, please call our reception team on (03) 9380 3900 and ask to speak to the Program Manager, Tash Gore.

You can also email reception@vmiac.org.au to engage in the process of making a formal compliment or complaint.