**Expression of Interest**

**WAAMH Regional Community Supports Needs Analysis Project Reference Group**

The Western Australian Association for Mental Health (WAAMH) invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from people interested in the WAAMH Regional Community Supports Needs Analysis Project Reference Group.

**About the project**

The primary objective of this project is to conduct needs assessment, on a regional basis, to gather community member, lived experience, community-managed mental health service provider, and Health Service Provider views on the issues affecting mental health in local communities, the services and supports needed, and any preferred models. The project will gather more detailed, local data than is currently available, with a focus on community mental health supports.

The secondary objective of this project is to include empowerment and organising approaches within the needs assessment methodology to build on WAAMH’s Prevent Support Heal mental health campaign activities that have occurred to date, keep people already engaged involved, and generate new connections to the campaign.

A report, or a series of regional reports will be produced outlining community needs. These will be used in WAAMHs sector development and advocacy activities including the Prevent Support Heal campaign.

**Reference Group members**

The reference group comprises individuals with lived experience of mental distress who represent the interests of mental health consumers, carers and/or family members, service providers with knowledge of rural and remote mental health and peak bodies.

WAAMH is seeking:

* One consumer or family/carer member with specific expertise in lived experience engagement strategies and methods and/or co-design and coproduction.
* Other consumer or family/carer members with experience in and knowledge of rural and remote mental health needs and experiences.
* Consumer and family/carers peak organisations.
* One or two provider representatives with experience in and knowledge of community mental health supports, and rural and remote mental health needs, challenges and gaps.

**Membership requirements**

Lived experience members will need to:

* Have personal or family experience of the mental health challenges or distress, in a rural or remote context.
* Understand recovery and the difference between non-clinical community supports and the community based treatment services provided by the public mental health system.
* Be able to contribute to discussions about the needs of people living in rural/remote areas, service gaps and challenges, reflecting their own experiences and the experiences of a broad range of consumers and carers/family members.

Peak body and service provider members will need to:

* Have deep knowledge and/or experience of the needs of people living in rural/remote areas.
* Understand recovery and a range of community support options.
* Be able to be able to contribute to discussions about the needs of people living in rural/remote areas, service gaps and challenges, reflecting their own experiences and the experiences of other organisations and community members.

**The Terms of Reference for the reference group can be found on the following pages.**

**Remuneration and attendance**

The reference group meets approximately every two months for about one and a half hours.

Lived experience participants will be offered a lived experience partnership payment in accordance with WAAMH’s [policy](https://waamh.org.au/assets/policies/lived-experience-participation-payments.pdf) at $65 an hour for 3 hours, for each meeting.

Organisational members will not be remunerated, on the assumption that project participation is part of their paid role.

**How to apply**

To express your interest in being involved, please complete the questions on the following page.

**Send your completed EOI to Chelsea McKinney at** [**cmckinney@waamh.org.au**](mailto:cmckinney@waamh.org.au) **by Wednesday 21st April**.

Phone Chelsea if you require any additional information on 6246 3000.

**Thank you for your interest.**

**To express your interest please complete this form**

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| **Name:** |  |
| **Name of organisation, if representing a service provider or peak body** |  |
| **Contact phone number:** |  |
| **Email address:** |  |

**Please identify your experience** (e.g. as a consumer, family member and/or carer, service provider or peak body)

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**Please comment on why you would like to be involved?**

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**What key issues have you, your loved one, consumers attending your services or your organisation faced that are relevant to the need to increase community mental health supports in rural/remote areas?**

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**Are there other skills or interests you would like to highlight?**

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**Is there anything else you would like to add?**

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**Reference Group**

**WAAMH Regional Community Supports Needs Analysis Project**

**Terms of Reference**

**Draft 1**

1. **Background**

Recovery oriented community supports have great potential to significantly improve the lives of many more people in Western Australia, but significant challenges exist to achieve this.

Increasing and improving community supports is a one of the key strategic change outcomes WAAMH is working on to progress our vision that ‘as a human right, every one of us will have the resources and support needed for mental wellbeing, recovery and citizenship’. It is also a priority for people with lived experience and the community managed mental health sector.

The valued input, experience and insights of members and other key stakeholders will enhance our existing sector development and advocacy activities in this area.

In this context community supports are defined as:

*Community supports are non-clinical supports that advance people’s recovery, rights and opportunities. They are empowering, offer hope and include people’s social context – trauma, income, community connection, culture or housing. They include peer support, personal recovery programs, groups, family and carer supports, housing and employment programs.*

1. **Regional Needs Analysis Project**

The primary objective of this project is to conduct needs assessment, on a regional basis, to gather community member, lived experience, community-managed mental health service provider, and Health Service Provider views on the issues affecting local communities, the services and supports needed, and any preferred models. The project will gather more detailed, local data than is currently available, with a focus on community supports.

The secondary objective of this project is to include empowerment and organising approaches within the needs assessment methodology to build on WAAMH’s Prevent Support Heal mental health campaign activities that have occurred to date, keep people already engaged involved, and generate new connections to the campaign.

A report, or a series of regional reports will be produced outlining community needs. These will be used in WAAMHs sector development and advocacy activities including the Prevent Support Heal campaign.

1. **Role of the Reference Group**

This time limited reference group is being established to inform the work of the Regional Community Support Needs Analysis Project.

Members of the reference group will:

* Work with WAAMH staff and a project consultant.
* Provide advice on lived experience, community and sector engagement strategies, plans and methods.
* Contribute information about regional, rural and remote mental health services, as well as needs, gaps, challenges and barriers, with a particular focus on community support.
* Share the voices and perspectives of people with lived experience.
* Gather information about provider concerns, challenges and opportunities.
* Provide other general information and advice to support the project.
* Promote opportunities to participate in the project consultations and the findings of the project to their networks.

1. **Meetings**

Meetings will be convened by WAAMH approximately each 3 – 4 weeks for the duration of the project. Meetings will be held online using Zoom, to support people living outside of Perth to be actively engaged. It is anticipated that 3 – 4 meetings in total will occur.

Members may have more contact with WAAMH staff and Reference Group members by email or phone when information and advice is required more urgently.

1. **Membership**

Membership comprises:

* A consumer or family/carer member, with specific expertise in lived experience engagement strategies and methods.
* Other consumer or family/carer members with experience in and knowledge of rural and remote mental health needs and experiences.
* Consumer and family/carers peak organisations.
* One or two provider representatives with experience in and knowledge of community mental health supports, and rural and remote mental health needs, challenges and gaps.
* Other members may be invited as determined by the WAAMH staff, or invited a guest.

WAAMH staff attendance may vary but may include Projects Lead, Systemic Advocacy and Sector Development Manager, Senior Policy Officer, and Practice and Sector Development Lead.

1. **Partnership processes for people with lived experience**

WAAMH will establish positive and proactive engagement processes to ensure robust and positive contributions of people with lived experience within a spirit of partnership, including offering payments in accordance with WAAMH’s partnerships payments policy.

1. **Chair**

WAAMH will chair the Reference Group, however, may delegate this role.

1. **Code of Conduct**

Reference Group members will commit to:

* Prepare for meetings as required;
* Be prepared to discuss issues in a solution focused manner;
* Privilege lived experience voices;
* Share relevant information, knowledge, resources and wisdom; and
* Maintain a focus on the group’s role and scope.

To fulfil its role effectively it is important that members work in accordance with the following principles:

* Work in a spirit of collaboration and partnership;
* Have robust, open, respectful and constructive discussions;
* Value and acknowledge the contribution of others;
* Support the work of the Reference Group;
* Maintain confidentiality of information; and
* Declare any potential for conflict of interest and stand aside when a conflict of interest exists or is perceived to exist.

1. **Agenda Items, Notes and Papers**

An agenda for meetings will be developed by WAAMH with input by group members. The Agenda and any meeting papers will be distributed prior to each scheduled meeting. Brief notes from each meeting focused mainly on action items will be taken and circulated by WAAMH.