

Queensland Mental Health Consumer Representative Peak Establishment Project Steering Committee Communique

The Queensland Mental Health Consumer Representative Peak Project Steering Committee met for the third time on 19 August 2020. The meeting focused on endorsing consultation and engagement activities; deciding on the legal entity structure of the Peak; as well as the management structure.

Acknowledgement

The Queensland Mental Health Commission (the Commission) acknowledges all people who have personal experience of mental ill-health. We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we live and work on, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future. We also acknowledge the many organisations, service providers and community members who work in partnership with us and who generously share their views, their knowledge and expertise. Your voices are all essential to our work.

Forming a collective understanding

The third Project Steering Committee meeting on 19 August focused on members discussing and making decisions on engagement activities, the legal entity structure, and management model of the new mental health consumer representative peak. The Committee noted the sharing of experiences and knowledge in discussions was encouraging and inspiring. Members did not shy away from challenging traditional models and thinking. They interrogated the ways the new mental health consumer representative peak could be established to ensure a firm foundation, and to ensure consumer voices would be heard.

Shared values and purposes

The Committee began with deciding what further consultation and engagement is needed to inform the establishment phase of the project. It was unanimously agreed genuine and grassroots engagement is needed to connect with diverse Queensland communities, and this was best undertaken by the new mental health consumer representative peak when it is established. However, the importance of establishing good corporate governance, including evaluation of the operations and performance of the Peak were emphasised and this is to be supported by engaging with related experts to provide advice and recommendations for consideration by the Committee. The Committee was satisfied previous consultations have provided a clear understanding of the purpose, functions and values consumers want for the new mental health consumer representative peak.

Strong robust governance

Members considered legal entity and management/governance models with a lens to choose a model that would provide stability and sustainability to the new mental health consumer representative peak, and to deliver its business with accountability and credibility. After some consideration, the Committee agreed the organisation will be established as a not-for profit company limited by guarantee, with a single CEO model, which enables flexibility for the established peak to explore co-leadership and network leadership models once it matures. Members look forward to further discussions in the next meetings on the topics of board member recruitment and details in governance establishment.

Keep up-to-date

Anyone who is interested in following this project is encouraged to register for updates via the Queensland Mental health Commission's [eNews](#).

The [Consumer Peak webpage](#) will also be used to post important messages that will alert opportunities that consumers and other stakeholders can participate and will be a repository for these updates.

If you would like to get in contact the Project Steering Committee or the project team, please email: ConsumerPeak@qmhc.qld.gov.au

Please note, the email account isn't monitored outside of business hours or at weekends.