

## Queensland Mental Health Consumer Representative Peak Establishment Project Steering Committee Communique

**23 September 2020**

*The fourth meeting of the Queensland Mental Health Consumer Representative Peak Project Steering Committee focussed on key elements of the peak's draft constitution.*

### **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 on which we live and work, 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, knowledge and expertise. Your voices are all essential to our work.

### **Foundation of a constitution**

The new mental health consumer peak constitution will set the legal requirements and broad governance structure of the organisation and inform operational policies and procedures. While many elements of the constitution are standard, the committee focused on areas unique to the peak's identity and function, including the organisation's name and objectives (goals), membership, and the structure of the board.

Through rich discussion, committee members went to the heart of the new mental health consumer peak, with a number of themes emerging, including that the name should reflect the work of the organisation and be distinct to avoid confusion with other agencies. Members discussed the need for objectives (goals) to support flexibility in the scope, enable collaboration and partnerships, and support capacity-building of consumers to engage in sector-improving initiatives.

Committee members strongly supported diversity and lived experience representation in the governance of the new mental health consumer peak, including through board appointments and an advisory group.

### **To be continued...**

The committee will again discuss key elements of the constitution at the next meeting, on 21 October 2020. An extraordinary meeting will be scheduled to discuss board recruitment.

### **Keep up to date**

Regular project updates can be found in Queensland Mental Health Commission's [consumer peak webpage](#) or by subscribing to the [eNews](#).

The Project Steering Committee or the project team can be contacted by email on [ConsumerPeak@qmhc.qld.gov.au](mailto:ConsumerPeak@qmhc.qld.gov.au).

Note the email account is not monitored outside business hours.