

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

12 October 2020

*An extraordinary meeting of the Queensland Mental Health Consumer Representative Peak Project Steering Committee was scheduled to make decisions around recruitment of the new mental health consumer representative peak's (new mental health consumer peak) board and Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) positions.*

### **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.

### **Interim CEO and board positions**

The focus of this meeting was to make decisions regarding recruitment of a board, board chair, and interim CEO position, including the core skills, recruitment process and the composition of assessment panels.

Committee members endorsed the recruitment of an interim CEO to lead the new mental health consumer peak during the start-up phase. It was agreed that a 12-month term, with potential to be extended or become permanent, would be more likely to attract a lived/living experience candidate with the skills and personal attributes needed to build the organisation, and create a mentally healthy environment and positive culture where lived/living experience is supported and championed.

The committee also approved the recruitment of seven (7) board members, including one chair. Committee members strongly emphasised the need for diversity and lived/living experience representation on the board. The majority of board members will have a lived/living experience and an identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander director will be appointed from the outset.

### **Recruitment**

The Committee endorsed engaging a specialist recruitment agency to deliver an innovative and modern approach to recruiting a board and an interim CEO for the new mental health consumer peak. The agency will be carefully selected through a targeted-tender process by a panel consisting of representatives from the Commission and the Committee.

Working closely with the Project Team, Committee representatives and other stakeholders, the successful agency will develop and implement a recruitment strategy to ensure candidates meet the personal and professional experience and capability requirements considered important by the Committee.

### **Remuneration**

Remuneration of the board directors was discussed. The Committee felt strongly that board members, the majority of whom will have lived/living experience, should be remunerated for their work. Like any organisation, the new mental health consumer peak will have resource constraints. In order to strike a fair balance, it was decided that board members will be

remunerated through a mechanism such as a paid participation policy rather than salaries. Individual board members may elect to not claim for paid participation.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on 21 October 2020. The Committee will continue to discuss key elements of the constitution and embark on discussion of the Corporate Governance Manual.

### **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.