

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

**21 October 2020**

*The sixth meeting of the Queensland Mental Health Consumer Representative Peak Project Steering Committee focussed on continuing to revise 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.

### **Representation**

Representing the voices of consumers of the public mental health system has always been the focus of the new mental health consumer peak during its establishment phase. Over the course of the past five steering committee meetings, members have respectfully and thoughtfully discussed the advantages and disadvantages of this approach.

The Department of Health has been closely following the steering committee's discussions and after careful consideration, has endorsed extending the focus of the peak to all mental health consumers. This news was welcomed by the steering committee!

Providing advice to government on the public mental health system, and giving voice to the most disadvantaged and socially marginalised groups will continue to be priorities for the organisation.

### **Constitution**

An organisation's constitution sets out the rights, powers and duties of the organisation, its board, its individual directors and chief executive officer and its members. The constitution is the first step in structuring a strong governance framework for the peak and setting the "tone" of the organisation.

The focus of this meeting was continuing to revise the constitution and to reach agreement on:

- the approach to determining the company's name
- objects (goals) of the organisation
- key definitions within the constitution
- organisation membership and voting
- board of directors (lived experience representation, term of appointment, progressive retirement, remuneration)
- an advisory group (representation, recruitment, term, remuneration)

Discussion of the board's governance manual was held over to the next meeting due to time constraints.

### **Underpinning values**

## Communique

Throughout this process, the steering committee has sought to ensure that recovery, trauma-informed practice, cultural safety, and consumer leadership are embedded within the peak's underpinning governance documents. After discussion at this meeting, an object (goal) will be added to the organisation's constitution stating the organisation will demonstrate and foster these principles in everything it does.

There was strong support at this meeting for an identified Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander position on the company's advisory group, in addition to the identified board director position.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on 2 December 2020. The committee will endorse the finalised 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@gmhc.qld.gov.au](mailto:ConsumerPeak@gmhc.qld.gov.au).

Note the email account is not monitored outside business hours.