

Alcohol and other Drugs: Lived and Living Experience Advisory Group

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Introduction

The Department of Health (the department) is leading a range of initiatives across Victoria's alcohol and other drugs (AOD) sector to improve the outcomes and experiences of people living with substance use or addiction, family members and supporters.

This work includes implementation of recommendations from the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health and Wellbeing System (Royal Commission), through integrated treatment, care and support. The 2021-22 State Budget provides an initial investment for integrated approaches to service delivery, establishing a new specialist statewide service and growing the number of addiction medicine specialists.

The department recognises that the long-term strategic direction for Victoria's AOD system must embed the expertise, views and preferences of people with lived and living experience of substance use or addiction, family members and supporters. To this end, the AOD Lived and Living Experience Advisory Group (LLEAG) has been established to support meaningful participation and partnership with people with lived and living experience of substance use or addiction, family members and supporters across a range of initiatives.

The role of the AOD LLEAG is to partner with the Mental Health and Wellbeing Division to:

- ensure lived and living experience of substance use or addiction informs the work of the division
- provide subject matter expertise on current and emerging issues related to people living with substance use or addiction, family members and supporters
- provide information and advice to inform work on AOD policy priorities, including Royal Commission AOD initiatives and implications for the standalone specialist AOD system, strategic reform, policy and service development.

The AOD LLEAG is co-chaired by the CEO of the Self-Help Addiction Resource Centre (SHARC) and the Director of Mental Health and AOD Strategy and Policy in the Mental Health and Wellbeing Division of the Department of Health.

The Co-Chairs, with support from the Secretariat, will be responsible for facilitating open and constructive discussion and ensuring the AOD LLEAG delivers on its key role. The Co-Chairs will guide and summarise discussions, rather than participate in the detail of those discussions.

Members of the AOD LLEAG participate as individuals with relevant lived or living experience and expertise. They do not represent the views of an organisation, except in the case of departmental employees where membership is a requirement of their substantive position.

The LLEAG has been meeting since September 2020 and currently meets bi-monthly within usual business hours.

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that government boards and committees reflect the rich diversity of the Victorian community.

We encourage applications from people of all ages, Aboriginal people, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and from lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, gender diverse, intersex and queer people.

Nomination Process

Expressions of interest are now open for **additional members that reflect the diverse lived and living experience voices of the community**. Active engagement of Victoria's diverse communities is important to better understand and respond to the unique and specific needs of different groups and drive inclusive and equitable outcomes.

Process for nomination:

1. An expression of interest form (this document) will be distributed via Self Help Addiction Resource Centre (SHARC) and lived and living experience workforce and community networks to enable all consumers and carers/family members to have the opportunity to nominate.
2. Those who are interested will complete the expression of interest form and email back to the nominated contact by close of business Monday 28 February 2022.
3. All expressions of interest will be reviewed by a selection panel and those who are shortlisted will be contacted to find out more about your interest in participating in LLEAG.
4. Shortlisted candidates will be presented to the Co-Chairs for final consideration and endorsement of new members
5. Once this process has been completed, all nominations will be notified of the outcome.

Applications

Interested persons are asked to complete the EOI questions and return this form to Edward Stott, EAG Secretariat, AOD Policy at edward.stott@health.vic.gov.au. Please contact Edward Stott on **03 9595 2164** or via email if you have any additional questions, need additional support in completing the form or would like it in a different format.

Expression of Interest Form

Lived and Living Experience Advisory Group

-- This form is private and will not be shared other than stipulated for selection purposes --

Your contact details:	
Your name:	
Email:	
Phone number:	
Your organisation (if applicable):	
Your position/role (if applicable):	

Select **one** of each of the following (mark with an X):

Are you nominating as a consumer or carer/family/supporter? (select one only)	Consumer	
	Carer/family/supporter	

Are you employed in a consumer or carer/family/supporter role? (select one)	Consumer	
	Carer	
	Consumer & Carer	
	Not applicable	

Payment (select one only)	I work for a health service/organisation and my employer will pay me to participate	
	I require payment	

Does your manager/organisation endorse and support your participation in the project (if applicable)?	Yes	
	No	
	Not applicable	

Please tell us a bit more about yourself.

1. Why are you applying to join this working group? (up to 150 words)

2. What experience, skills or expertise will you bring to the working group? (up to 150 words)

3. We are interested in having a diverse group of participants join the working group. Please tell us a little about your diversity of lived or living experience (this section is optional):	
I identify as being/having <i>(please tick all relevant):</i>	Diversity of lived experience
	Aboriginal background
	Culturally or linguistically diverse background
	Refugee or asylum seeker background
	Young person (I have engaged youth alcohol and other drug services)
	Adult (I have engaged adult alcohol and other drug services)
	LGBTIQ+
	Regional / rural community
	Disability
	Mental illness and substance use or addiction lived experience
	Other experiences of diversity (please specify):

**Please return your nomination form to edward.stott@health.vic.gov.au
Nominations close Monday 28 February 2022.**