Meetings ... What happens

Network Meetings provide an opportunity to engage with people who all have motivation and aspiration to support each other as peers.

At each of our monthly Network Meetings we:

- Meet other Peer specialists.

- Hear a round-up of what's happening where we work.

- Hear news and discuss relevant developments in the field.

- Listen to guest speakers and participate in discussions on topics relevant to the work of Peer Specialists

- Participate in Group Reflective Practice session aimed at developing our practice and supporting each other.

Meetings ... Where & When

Recognising that many members work part-time; monthly **Network Meetings** are on alternating days -usually the last Monday or Friday of each month.

- Location rotates amongst members' workplaces.

- We appreciate employers' encouragement & support for their employees to attend.

Some meetings are held in regional locations (*offers to host meetings are welcome*).

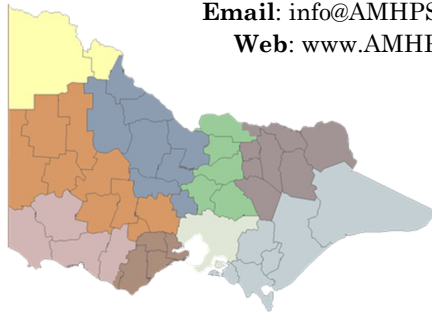Contact us to be added to our mailing

AMHPS - Vic

President: Tony Strazzeri	Phone: 9362 8181
Secretary: Erandathie Jayakodi	Phone: 9455 7981

Email: info@AMHPS.org.au
Web: www.AMHPS.org.au

AMHPS Vic

Association of Mental Health Peer Specialists – Victoria

The professional association for workers using and disclosing their Lived Experience.

www.AMHPS.org.au
Info@AMHPS.org.au

About us ....

Over the past few years, the number of consumer/peer workers within the mental health sector has grown significantly. Peer/consumer workers are now working in a wide range of services from consumer consultants to research and policy development to community mental health support/outreach roles.

A group of peer workers have been meeting regularly in open forum since 2009, for mutual support and reflection on their work. Many employers of peer/consumer workers have understood the benefits gained through peer workers meeting for reflection and mutual support and have generously encouraged and supported their employees to attend meetings during work time.

In recognition of the benefits that come from a workforce acting in solidarity, this forum provided the context out of which grew a commitment to the formation of a professional association whose membership would be open to people working in the mental health sector, who have a lived experience of mental ill health and recovery, and who declare and use that experience as part of their employment.

This initiative has been supported by the peak body for consumers in Victoria, the Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council (VMIAC). Support for the creation of this

2009: Initial regular meetings

A group of peer workers meet regularly for mutual support and reflection.

28 September 2012

Inaugural Meeting. Association formally created

26 July 2013

1st AGM. Exciting future with your contribution & support.

professional association was also gathered at the consumer workforce conference in 2012.

The Victorian Association of Mental Health Peer Specialists – (AMHPS Vic) was thus formally inaugurated at a general meeting in September 2012. The association aims to bring forward the agenda of a professional association for member's mutual benefit and more broadly for the benefits, which an initiative such as this can bring to consumers, carers, other professionals in the field, and the mental health sector generally.

The purposes of the association are:

- To provide a networking opportunity for …
- To be the peak body representing …
- To provide a forum for reflective practice for …
- To promote, encourage and support the role of …

     …Victorian Mental Health Peer Specialists

Membership

Full membership is open to those:

- required as part of their job description to disclose & share their lived experience of mental ill health and recovery;
- employed in the mental health sector;
- provide services to residents in Victoria.

Associate Membership

Is open to people who disclose & share their lived experience but who are not currently employed in a capacity that would qualify them for full membership.