

MENTAL HEALTH PEER WORK

A qualification for Mental Health Peer Workers!



In partnership with the National Mental Health Commission (NMHC), Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) has been funded to develop national learning and assessment resources for the **Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work CHC42912**.

The purpose of the project

The purpose of the project is to develop learning and assessment resources for the nationally recognised qualification Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work CHC42912. Learning and assessment resources will be developed for two streams: carer peer workers and consumer peer workers.

The aim of the project is to:

- Develop the required learner and trainer resources so they can be freely available throughout Australia
- Ensure consumer and carer peer workers have their skills recognised by completing a nationally recognised qualification
- Acknowledge and validate the importance of peer workers
- Assist to support and grow the peer workforce
- Assist to cement the peer workforce as an occupational group in community, Government and private mental health services

Project duration

Stage 1 of the project is to develop the core/elective units of competence for the consumer and carer stream are scheduled for completion by June 2014.

Stage 2 of the project is to develop the Peer leadership skills set and will start in June 2014 and are scheduled for completion in early 2015.

About the qualification

The national qualification is the Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work CHC42912 which is part of the Community Services Training Package. A copy of the qualification is in Appendix 1. CMHA has specifically been funded to develop the learning and assessment materials for the specialist peer worker units of competence and the peer leadership skill set. The additional skill set for managers to support peer workforce will not be developed as part of the project but requires development as soon as practicable.

| Consumer Stream | Carer Stream |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 core units• 2 electives Total of 7 CONSUMER units of competence | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 core units• 2 electives Total of 7 CARER units of competence |
| Consumer Peer Leadership (elective) | Carer Peer Leadership (elective) |
| Total of 3 units of competence | Total of 3 units of competence |

The units to be covered in this qualification are:

Core units

| | |
|-----------|--|
| CHCPW401A | Apply peer work practices in the mental health sector |
| CHCPW402A | Contribute to the continuous improvement of mental health services |
| CHCPW403A | Apply lived experience in mental health peer work |
| CHCPW404A | Work effectively in trauma informed care |
| CHCPW405A | Promote and facilitate self-advocacy |

Group B Electives - Consumer Peer Workers [2 UNITS]

| | |
|-----------|--|
| CHCPW406A | Work effectively in consumer mental health peer work |
| CHCPW407A | Support self-directed physical health and wellbeing |

Group C Electives - Carer Peer Workers [2 UNITS]

| | |
|------------|---|
| CHCPW408A | Work effectively in carer mental health peer work |
| CHCICS304B | Work effectively with carers |

Peer Leadership Skill Set

| | |
|------------|---|
| CHCORG627B | Provide mentoring support to colleagues |
| CHCNET501C | Work effectively with other services and networks |
| CHCORG611C | Lead and develop others in a community sector |

Involvement of Consumers, Carers and Service Providers

Consumers, Carers and Service Providers will participate through 4 reference groups that support the project.

| Reference group | Role | Description |
|--|---|---|
| National Management Steering Committee | Oversee the project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total of 8 representatives including chair people of Carer National Industry Reference Group and Consumer National Industry Reference Group Meets 3 – 4 times during the project in person or by teleconference |
| National Carer and Consumer Peer Work Qualification Reference Group | Provide resources, content and experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total of 24 representatives including chair people for Carer National Industry Reference Group and Consumer National Industry Reference Group The group will meet 3 – 4 times during the project in person or by teleconference. The first meeting will be over 2 days and in person. The other meetings will be a combination of 1 or 2 day face to face meetings and/or teleconference. This will be determined after the first meeting. Representatives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Consumer Co-chair 1 Carer Co-chair 5 Consumer representatives 5 Carer representatives 5 Community Managed Mental Health Organisations 3 Government Mental Health Services 2 Private Mental Health Services |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>National Technical Reference Group</p> | <p>Assist in the writing and development of all resources</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total of 8 representatives • Members of this group are required to have a high level of experience/expertise in the provision of consumer and carer peer work and will be selected on this basis. • Meets 3 – 4 times during the project in person or by teleconference. |
|--|---|--|

Frequently Asked Questions

Who will train and assess this qualification?

This project does not include the recruitment and selection of appropriately qualified trainers and assessors for this qualification. It is the responsibility of individual Registered Training Organisations to do this.

How do I or my organisation get a copy of the resources when the project is finished?

All resources will be **free** and available on the National Mental Health Commissions website.

Who is CMHA?

Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) promotes the importance and benefits of community mental health and recovery services across Australia.

It is a coalition of the eight peak community mental health organisations from each State and Territory and was established to provide leadership and direction.

CMHA provides a unified voice for over 800 community-based, non-government organisations who work with mental health consumers and carers across the nation and who are members of, or affiliated with, the various coalition members.

The prime roles and purpose of CMHA are to:

- Provide a voice and represent the community managed mental health sector in national initiatives related to mental health and social inclusion initiatives
- Enhance the capacity of coalition members to represent, support and strengthen the non-government community mental health sector
- Collaborate to develop joint policy and advocacy papers that promote community mental health at national and state/territory levels

CMHA is committed to ensuring minimum industry standards are implemented and the emerging national mental health peer workforce is appropriately supported. CMHA is committed to the inclusion of consumers and carers in delivery and development of its training and maintains strong partnerships with consumer and carer organisations within each state and at the national level.

What is the role of the Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC) of NSW?

MHCC is the lead agency of this project on behalf of CMHA. The Manager of Learning and Development at MHCC will fulfil a co-chair role for the NCCPWQRG.

Appendix Qualification and Skill Set overview

CHC42912 Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work

Packaging Rules

15 units must be selected for award of this qualification including:

- 6 core units
- 9 elective units

A wide range of elective units are available, including:

- Group A Cultural Sensitivity units of which one unit must be selected for this qualification
- Group B Consumer Peer Worker units of which two units must be selected for Consumer Peer Work Stream; or
- Group C Carer Peer Worker units of which two units must be selected for Carer Peer Work Stream
- The remaining 6 electives may be selected as set out below:
- Units of competency to address workplace requirements and packaged at the level of this qualification or higher in Health and/or Community Services Training Packages

Core units

| | |
|------------|--|
| CHCPW401A | Apply peer work practices in the mental health sector |
| CHCPW402A | Contribute to the continuous improvement of mental health services |
| CHCPW403A | Apply lived experience in mental health peer work |
| CHCPW404A | Work effectively in trauma informed care |
| HLTWHS300A | Contribute to WHS processes (Not proposed for development) |
| CHCPW405A | Promote and facilitate self-advocacy |

Group A electives – at least one unit must be selected (Not proposed for development)

One of the following units **must** be selected for this qualification.

| | |
|------------|---|
| HLTHIR403C | Work effectively with culturally diverse clients and co-workers |
| HLTHIR404D | Work effectively with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people |

Where work involves a specific focus on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and culturally diverse clients or communities, candidates are recommended to select both units.

Electives required for Mental Health Peer Work specialisation

Group B Electives - Consumer Peer Workers [2 UNITS]

| | |
|-----------|--|
| CHCPW406A | Work effectively in consumer mental health peer work |
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For further details on the Qualification and Skill Set visit www.training.gov.au

For more information about CMHA's Consumer and Carer Peer Work Qualification Development Project contact:

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