



**Mental
Health
Lived
Experience
Engagement
Network**

By way of background, following recommendations from the November 2017 Stepped Care Workshop, in June 2018, the Department of Health provided support to PHN's by contracting Brisbane North PHN to chair and develop a network involving all 31 PHN's called the

National PHN Mental Health Lived Experience Engagement Network (MHLEEN).

Due to its work, the Network received a commitment from the Department for a further three years until 2022. Overall the main aims and objectives of MHLEEN align with the Departments Guidelines for [Consumer and Carer Engagement](#) (2016) and [Peer Workforce Development](#) (2019) and the Fifth National Plan.

The latest MHLEEN workplan has the following aim and objectives.

PHNs engage people with a lived experience (i.e., consumers and carers) in the co-design of systems and processes in line with the maxim

'nothing about us – without us'

1. PHN's to embed consumer and carer engagement in the co-design throughout the commissioning cycle
2. PHN's to support better outcomes in mental health by promoting and supporting the employment of peer workers as part of multi-disciplinary teams providing person centred support and recovery-oriented and trauma informed care and
3. Maintain a National Network of PHN's and other key stakeholders to support, coordinate and collaborate on continuous improvement of person centred, recovery focused planning, implementation and review of primary mental health care.

The MHLEEN Network is made up of people employed by PHN's in identified lived experience roles and/or other roles requiring engagement from project officer level through to management and executive level. A stocktake of PHN activities has also been undertaken in 2018 and 2020 to see what progress PHN's have made.

In 2019-2020 MHLEEN has managed to negotiate funding support to allow PHN's to nominate Lived Experience Delegates to attend Stepped Care Workshops. With the impact of COVID, Stepped Care Workshops were cancelled however MHLEEN successfully negotiated underspend to allow PHN nominated Lived Experience Delegates to attend the virtual International Mental Health Conference (Nov 2020) and the recent TheMHS (Feb 2021).

Contact

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