

## Seeking Expressions of Interest

### Join the reference group for the 2025 Community Mental Health Workforce Survey Project

The association is undertaking the inaugural workforce survey for WA's community-based mental health sector; the results of which will be central to future advocacy work and the reform of Australia's mental health system.

This project is strategically important, not only for the association and its members, but also for the broader community-based mental health workforce in WA and nationally. This project will contribute Western Australian data to a national workforce profile of the sector.

Management and research consultancy firm, Human Capital Alliance, has been commissioned to develop and conduct the survey as well as collate the results, which will be published in a report in late 2025.

To help make this historic project a success, WAAMH is inviting interested parties to submit an expression of interest to join a project reference group. The reference group will provide important advice and guidance, to assist in the development and implementation of the survey.

#### **How the survey results will be used**

The results of the survey will be used in several crucial ways.

- **Representing members** – the survey results will ensure the association can accurately represent the needs of its members in the sector. The survey data will also be made available to WAAMH members for their use.
- **Advocacy** – the results will provide an evidence base for WAAMH's advocacy on issues impacting the mental health workforce; and be used in future submission papers and official communications.
- **Workforce development** – the results will inform WAAMH's activities in relation to workforce development and training; and its proposals and advice to government on workforce initiatives for the purpose of system reform.
- **Data benchmarking** – the survey will create a data set that can be built upon, added to and benchmarked against in future, to help recognise and understand changes in the sector over time.

- **National profile** – adding WA data to the results that have been collected over the past six years in NSW and the ACT will contribute to a national mental health workforce profile.

### **The role of the reference group**

The reference group will provide advice that will guide the design and implementation of the survey.

Between July and September 2025, the reference group will meet once to gain an initial understanding of the project and the role of the reference group; a second time to sign off on the draft survey before it is disseminated; and then a final time to receive an update on the results of the survey.

Between these three meetings, the reference group will be asked to:

- provide feedback on a draft survey to inform the development of the final survey;
- potentially participate in pilot testing of the draft survey; and
- share news of the project and the final survey to encourage participation.

The association's expectation is that the reference group will be made up of a range of organisations, to reflect the diversity of the sector in terms of organisational size, service provision and geographic service area.

### **Joining the reference group**

The association is seeking expressions of interest from interested parties within the mental health sector.

Organisations wishing to join the project reference group should nominate a representative, which ideally should be a staff member who will be directly involved in completing the survey on behalf of their organisation and/or staff in human resources or workforce planning and development-related roles. For example, this could be a Human Resources Executive in a larger organisation or a CEO in a smaller organisation.

If you would like to join the reference group for this important project, please submit an expression of interest by email to the association's CEO, Taryn Harvey, no later than 5.00pm on Tuesday 5 August.

### **Taryn Harvey**

Chief Executive Officer

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