**WAAMH NDIS Mental Health Reference Group**

The Western Australian Association for Mental Health (WAAMH) invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from people interested in the WAAMH Mental Health NDIS Reference Group.

The reference group comprises WAAMH organisational member representatives and individuals with lived experience of mental distress who represent the interests of mental health consumers/clients, NDIS participants, carers and/or family members.

WAAMH is seeking one additional independent consumer representative, and one or two independent carer or family member representatives.

Members will need to have:

* personal or family experience of the NDIS
* mental hath challenges or a psychosocial disability
* be able to contribute to discussions about advocacy and sector development activities, reflecting their own experiences and the experiences of a broad range of consumers and carers/family members.

The Terms of Reference for the reference group can be found on the next page.

**Remuneration and attendance**

The reference group meets approximately every two months for about one and a half hours.

Lived experience participants will be offered a lived experience partnership payment in accordance with WAAMH’s [policy](https://waamh.org.au/assets/policies/lived-experience-participation-payments.pdf) at $65 an hour for 3 hours, for each meeting.

**How to apply**

To express your interest in being involved, please complete the questions on the following page.

**Send your completed EOI to Chelsea McKinney at** [**cmckinney@waamh.org.au**](mailto:cmckinney@waamh.org.au) **by Monday 19th April**.

Phone Chelsea if you require any additional information on 6246 3000.

**Thank you for your interest.**

**Please complete this form**

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| **NAME:** |  |
| **CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** |  |
| **EMAIL ADDRESS:** |  |

**Please identify your experience** (e.g. as a consumer/client, NDIS participant, activist/advocate, family member and/or carer)

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**Please comment on why you would like to be involved?**

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**What key issues have you, or your loved one faced that are relevant to the NDIS Mental Health reference group?**

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**Are there other skills or interests you would like to highlight?**

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**Is there anything else you would like to add?**

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**WAAMH Community Supports Reference Group**

**Terms of Reference**

1. **Background**

The NDIS is an important social reform which has great potential to significantly improve the lives of people with psychosocial disability, but significant challenges exist to achieve this.

Influencing the implementation of the NDIS including a focus on families and carers is one of the key strategic change outcomes WAAMH is working on to progress our vision that ‘as a human right, every one of us will have the resources and support needed for mental wellbeing, recovery and citizenship’. To deliver credible and quality NDIS activities, WAAMH requires the valued input, experience and insights of members and other key stakeholders, including those representing providers, consumers and families.

1. **Role of the Reference Group**

This group will be collaborative forum that can operate as a sounding board, an advisory group and a bank of wisdom for knowledge-sharing and problem solving about the NDIS and psychosocial issues for consumers, family members/carers and providers. It will inform WAAMH’s activities across sector development, training, projects and systemic advocacy; enable stakeholders to support and inform each other; and develop opportunities for collective learning and action.

It will:

* Provide a forum for multi directional feedback and knowledge exchange about the NDIS in WA
* Gather evidence about and monitor the impact of the NDIS and associated programs and supports to support effective systemic advocacy
* Share the voices and perspectives of people with lived experience
* Gather information about provider concerns, challenges and opportunities including training needs of the psychosocial NDIS workforce
* Provide advice and contribute to planning for WAAMH NDIS activities such as events, training and projects
* Promote the development of shared agendas, including opportunities to identify, develop and progress partnerships and collective action in advocacy and sector development.

1. **Meetings**

Meetings will be convened by WAAMH approximately bimonthly.

Members may have more contact with WAAMH staff and Working Group members by email or phone when information and advice is required more urgently.

1. **Membership**

Membership comprises a representative group of providers across rural, remote and metropolitan, large and small providers, mental health specific and broader providers, state and federally funded; consumer and family/carer representatives and their peak organisations; and advocacy organisations.

WAAMH staff attendance may vary but may include CEO, Projects Lead, Systemic Advocacy and Sector Development Manager, Practice and Sector Development Lead.

WAAMH will also continue engagement with the Disability Coalition and other stakeholders on an ongoing basis.

1. **Partnership processes for people with lived experience**

WAAMH will establish positive and proactive engagement processes to ensure robust and positive contributions of people with lived experience within a spirit of partnership, including offering payments in accordance with WAAMH’s partnerships payments policy.

1. **Chair**

WAAMH will chair the Reference Group, however, may delegate this role.

1. **Code of Conduct**

Working Group members will commit to:

* Prepare for meetings as required;
* Be prepared to discuss issues in a solution focused manner;
* Privilege lived experience voices;
* Share relevant information, knowledge, resources and wisdom; and
* Maintain a focus on the group’s role and scope.

To fulfil its role effectively it is important that members work in accordance with the following principles:

* Work in a spirit of collaboration and partnership;
* Have robust, open, respectful and constructive discussions;
* Value and acknowledge the contribution of others;
* Support the work of the Reference Group;
* Maintain confidentiality of information; and
* Declare any potential for conflict of interest and stand aside when a conflict of interest exists or is perceived to exist.

1. **Agenda Items, Notes and Papers**

An agenda for meetings will be developed by WAAMH with input by group members. The Agenda and any meeting papers will be distributed prior to each scheduled meeting. Notes from each meeting will be taken and circulated by WAAMH.

Full copies of all notes, including attachments, shall be provided to all group members.

1. **Review**

Members are encouraged to raise issues and actively contribute to the development and effectiveness of this engagement process on an ongoing basis.

The advisory mechanism will be reviewed through annual group discussion or other self-evaluation mechanism.

Terms of Reference may be amended, modified or varied in writing after consultation and agreement.