

Pathways to Mental Health Peer Work

Information on resources for those with lived experience of mental health challenges looking to get into the Lived Experience (Peer) workforce.

Need more options, or help with these? Contact Peer Pathways on 08 9477 2809

Peer Pathways is a free, state-wide independent navigation service open from 9am–5pm Mondays to Fridays.

Peer Pathways does not endorse any particular service, including those listed on this page. This is not an exhaustive list. It is your responsibility to decide whether the service you are considering using is appropriate for you.

Volunteering

Volunteering to assist others can help to build confidence, skills and experience for Peer work, such as:

- Joining and contributing to a Peer support group such as **Grow, Even Keel** or starting your own – a directory of groups, and support around starting your own group is available on **Connect Groups**.
- A range of other volunteering roles can be found at local Volunteer Resource Centres, at **Volunteering WA** or with organisations such as **Befriend**.
- Local community groups are also a way of volunteering within your community, these can be accessed through your local council or the **My Community Directory**.

Applying Directly to Paid Work

Some Peer workers successfully secure jobs in the industry without the Cert IV Mental Health Peer Work; employers will often consider candidates who have other qualifications, related work experience or relevant skills. Volunteering and industry relevant short courses are helpful for those wishing to enter paid work prior to Cert IV attainment.

ASPIRE

CoMHWAs ASPIRE Project is an innovative partnership program between individuals with a lived experience of mental health challenges and employers.

The aim of the project is to:

- Boost employable skills and employment outcomes for individuals with psychosocial disability
- Create new employment pathways for Peer workers;
- Drive inclusive practices by employers; and
- Increase confidence and motivation of employers to employ Peer workers.

Find out more by contacting the ASPIRE team: aspire@comhwa.org.au

Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work

CoMHWA offers the scholarship for the Cert IV in Mental Health Peer Work course at **North Metropolitan TAFE** each year. Applications usually open around October for the intake of the following year.

If you are interested in the next round of Cert IV scholarships for 2025, please email admin@comhwa.org.au to register your interest.

Dual Certificate IV Pathway

Completing a Certificate IV in related qualifications (e.g. Alcohol and Other Drugs, Community Services, Mental Health) can assist with units of competency towards the Cert IV Mental Health Peer Work (MHPW) course. It can also assist with gaining work in the industry as you move towards a vocation in Peer work.

The Cert IV Mental Health shares more units with the Cert IV MHPW than other Cert IV qualifications. We recommend you discuss these alternative pathway options with a current Cert IV MHPW provider.

The North Metropolitan TAFE contact is:

Phoebe Wilson (08) 9233 1102 or phoebe.wilson@nmtafe.wa.edu.au

Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work Providers

In WA, CoMHWA's scholarship with North Metropolitan TAFE is the main provider for people wishing to undertake face-to-face course delivery.

Some training providers of the Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work both in WA and nationally are below and a full list is available here: www.myskills.gov.au

Based in WA:

- **AMA Training** www.amatraining.edu.au or 1800 248 292
- **Marr Mooditj Training** www.marrmooditj.com.au or (08) 9351 9344

Interstate:

- **Spectrum Training** www.spectrumtraining.edu.au or (07) 3881 3310
- **Breakthru College** www.breakthrucollege.edu.au or 1800 767 212
- **selectability Training** www.selectabilitytraining.com.au or (07) 4453 0100
- **Aspire to Succeed** www.aspiretosucceed.com.au or (07) 5497 4009
- **JTI** www.jti.edu.au or 1300 144 584
- **Simple Solutions Training** www.simplesolution.com.au or (07) 4325 4455
- **Hammond Institute** www.hammond.edu.au or 1800 788 399

Short Courses, Groups and Programs

- **WA Peer Supporters Network:** An ongoing group hosted by CoMHWA that meets every 2 months for Peer supporters to learn and network together. Join the Network via CoMHWA www.wapsn.org.au or (08) 9258 8911
- **CoMHWA:** A range of Peer education short courses, such as intentional disclosure, sharing your recovery story, consumer advocacy and group facilitation skills. www.comhwa.org.au or (08) 9258 8911
- **MIFWA:** A range of recovery short courses and groups for consumers, families and carers. www.mifwa.org.au or (08) 9237 8900
- **Peer Zone:** A recovery education program offered by and for consumers. (Note: Peer Zone is a program offered by various groups). www.peerzone.info
- **WAAMH:** A range of mental health recovery short courses. www.waamh.org.au or (08) 6246 3000
- **Intentional Peer Support Training:** Available in Australia through the Self Help Addiction Resource Centre. They offer face-to-face courses in the Eastern states and online courses for those elsewhere in Australia. www.sharc.org.au/peer-support/intentional-peer-support
- **Roses in the Ocean:** Provides opportunity for people with a lived experience of suicide, organisations, and government to develop their capacity, confidence, and expertise to collaborate and partner with each other. www.rosesintheocean.com.au or 1300 411 461
- **Helping Minds:** Offers a range of short courses and groups for consumers, families and carers. helpingminds.org.au or (08) 9427 7100
- **Lifeline:** Facilitates a range of training including the Accidental Counsellor which is underpinned by Peer support principles. wa.lifeline.org.au or (08) 9261 4444
- **Neami National:** Currently has a pilot program called THRIVE which consists of free self-paced, online learning modules covering a range of employment topics. neaminational.org.au or email thrive@neaminational.org.au