

GRANT OPPORTUNITY: **PEERS HELPING PEERS**

Small grants of

\$2,000 – \$20,000

to help develop the capacity of Peer-led organisations

**Closing date for applications:
Sunday 18th January 2026 at 11:59 pm**

This grant opportunity provides time-limited funding to strengthen organisational capacity and capability of community based peer support groups that support people with lived experience of mental health challenges, including depression and suicidality.



**WA Primary
Health Alliance**
Better health, together

phn
PERTH NORTH, PERTH SOUTH,
COUNTRY WA
An Australian Government Initiative



**Consumers of
Mental Health WA**

Consumers of Mental Health WA (CoMHWA) has partnered with WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) to administer the Peers Helping Peers Small Grants Program.

Peers Helping Peers

Funded activities must contribute to organisational capacity and capability growth of peer support groups, with the aim to:

- Enhance awareness and uptake of existing peer support activities within local communities for consumers, families, carers, and friends.
- Increase the capacity and capability of peer support organisations to deliver services effectively and sustainably.

Consumers of Mental Health WA

Consumers of Mental Health WA (CoMHWA) is Western Australia's peak body representing people with lived experience of mental health issues.

We are a 100% lived experience organisation that works to ensure consumer voices are heard, respected, and embedded in mental health policy, planning, and service delivery. Through advocacy, collaboration, and capacity building, we support systemic change so that mental health systems are fairer, more responsive, and genuinely centred on the people who use them.

WA Primary Health Alliance

The WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) is the Western Australian Primary Health Network, funded by the Australian Government to plan, commission, and coordinate primary health care services across the state.

WAPHA works with communities, service providers, and governments to improve access to primary care, including mental health, suicide prevention, and alcohol and other drug services, with a focus on better health outcomes and reduced health inequities for people in Western Australia

Eligible Organisations

Eligible organisation types:

- Incorporated not for profit associations.
- Unincorporated groups.
- Unincorporated groups operating under the auspice of a larger organisation.

Ineligible organisation types:

- Sole traders.
- For-profit organisations.
- Government authorities (local, state, or Commonwealth).

Additional Conditions

Additional conditions apply for incorporated and auspiced organisations:

- Incorporated organisations must not receive more than \$100,000 per year in government funding through current grants or contracts.
- Auspiced groups are eligible if funding support from the auspicing organisation is less than \$100,000 per year.

Other eligibility criteria

- Peer support groups must be already existing. Expansion projects, including delivery at new locations, will be considered.
- Eligible projects must demonstrate how the proposed activities will build the capacity of the group to meet its purpose.
- A range of peer led models may be considered, including peer support groups and peer-led safe or supportive spaces where consumers are supported by peers.

Eligibility Criteria - Activities

Eligible activities:

Funding may be used for activities that support the growth, strengthening, or expansion of existing peer support groups, including but not limited to:

- Development or improvement of organisational policies, procedures, and governance practices.
- Sustainable expansion of existing peer support activities, including increased frequency, new modalities, different times, or additional locations.
- Promotion and marketing activities (website development, branding, design, printing, event costs).
- Training and development to build knowledge and skills in operating peer support organisations.
- Costs associated with incorporation of unincorporated groups.
- Consultant and professional fees related to capacity building.
- Other capacity building activities will be considered that are not excluded under the ineligible activity list.

Note: Training for peers and volunteers delivered by CoMHWA is not eligible for funding as it is already available free of charge (including online delivery where practicable).

Ineligible activities:

- Clinical service provision.
- Ongoing or recurrent employment costs.
- Activities not supporting consumers, families, carers, or kin with lived experience of mental health challenges, suicidality, and/or self-harm.
- Projects that require ongoing funding for sustainability.
- Establishment of entirely new peer support groups.
- Activities occurring outside Western Australia or expansion of services outside WA.
- Projects with expenditure beyond 30 June 2026.
- Purchase of capital items.
- Retrospective costs incurred prior to grant approval.
- Projects providing a direct financial benefit to the applicant.

Additional Information

Funding Terms

Successful applicants must enter into a funding agreement prior to any funds being disbursed. All grant funding must be expended by 30 June 2026. Any unspent funds must be returned to WAPHA.

Grant recipients will be required to complete outcome reporting, with support provided by CoMHWA.

Where appropriate:

- Groups without a bank account may be supported by CoMHWA through invoice payment arrangements.
- Groups with similar needs (e.g. incorporation support) may be assisted to pool resources to maximise benefit.

Priority Locations

Priority will be given to applications delivering outcomes in the following locations, however other locations may be considered:

- Armadale area
- Bunbury
- Esperance
- Goldfields
- Kimberley
- Manjimup
- Midwest
- Swan area

Assessment Terms

All applications will be reviewed and assessed by lived experience staff at CoMHWA.

CoMHWA reserves the right to:

- Request further information in support of an application.
- Approve applications for partial funding.
- Reject any application.

Decisions of the CoMHWA Assessment Panel are final. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application within 2 weeks of the closing date.

Assessment and Application

Assessment Questions

Applications must address the following in no more than 200 words per question;

1. Information about your group or organisation, including purpose and a brief history.
2. How your group currently supports people with lived experience of mental health challenges, including depression and suicidality.
3. How your group engages with the local community.
4. The purpose of the proposed use of grant funds.
5. How the project will build the capacity and capability of your peer support activities.

Applications will be assessed by lived experience staff at CoMHWa based on:

1. Responses to the assessment question
2. Value for money.
3. Alignment with priority locations.

Please complete the application at:

<https://tinyurl.com/CoMHWa-Peer-Grant>



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Questions can be directed to admin@comhwa.org.au