



## Peer Work

### POLICY

The Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia is committed to the value of peer work and seeks to influence governments and non-government service providers to adopt appropriate peer work roles. The peer workforce is comprised of people who are employed specifically for their expertise developed from the lived experience of mental illness.

### PRINCIPLES

- We understand and respect the historical context of the lived experience and support a workforce that embraces a philosophical, ethical and values based approach to peer work.
- The unique lived experience that peer workers contribute is vital to developing, implementing and evaluating recovery approaches for people whose lives are affected by mental illness.
- The diversity of peer work roles includes consumer and carer consultants, peer facilitators, peer support workers, peer educators.
- Peer role development is encouraged by MIFA as the lived experience perspective is vital to the advance of recovery approaches in all our work.

### ACTIONS

- Peer work approaches influence all program and policy development at MIFA and its member organisations.
- Peer workers receive the support and assistance of their colleagues and employers to develop their knowledge and skills while contributing an important perspective to the support of people affected by mental illness
- Members have well developed structures for induction, training, supervision and support of our peer workforce including specialist peer to peer structures where possible.
- Members have clear position descriptions and service documents that support best practice in peer work.
- Policy and advocacy activities are undertaken from the perspective of people affected by mental illness, and their stories and actions contribute to building community understanding and a more effective mental health system.

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