



## Peer Project Worker Position Description

### *Our Experiences through COVID Project*

**Organisation:** LELAN | SA Lived Experience Leadership & Advocacy Network

**Position title:** *Our Experiences through COVID* Peer Project Worker

**Employment status:** Contract, one-day per week until 30/12/20 (SCHADS Award, Level 5)

**Location:** Adelaide, South Australia

**Reports to:** LELAN Executive Director

**Contract period:** July 2020 – December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

#### *About the **Our Experiences through COVID** Project:*

The **Our Experiences through COVID** Project will ensure that the current and emerging experiences, perspective and solution ideas of people with lived/living experience of distress, mental health issues and psychosocial disability are understood and considered in COVID19 planning and recovery efforts. It will also enable people with lived/living experience to be meaningfully involved in decision-making and action related to service and state responses, or in their own communities of interest.

The **Our Experiences through COVID** Project is funded by the Grants SA COVID19 Support Grant Scheme. It is a six-month project beginning July 2020. A small Project Advisory Group (PAG) made up of people with lived/living experience of distress, mental health issues or psychosocial disability will advise and guide the project's implementation.

#### *About the SA Lived Experience Leadership & Advocacy Network (LELAN):*

**LELAN's purpose is to amplify the voice, influence and leadership of people with lived/living experience of distress or mental health issues to drive systemic change.** The organisation has three areas of focus:

- Developing the capability and influence of people with lived/living experience
- Nurturing organisational and sector capacity for partnering with people with lived/living experience
- Impacting system improvement agendas to benefit people with lived/living experience

As the leading lived experience organisation in South Australia LELAN has particular expertise, networks and partnerships that centre the lives, perspectives, wisdom, recovery and hopes of people with lived/living experience. **Because of our strong and trusted relationships with people in the lived experience community we are able to have deeper conversations about things that matter, drawing our collective experiences and solution ideas together in purposeful ways.**

*we amplify the voice, influence and leadership of people with lived experience to be heard drive change*

Core elements of LELAN's approach to any work that we are involved in or leading are:

- The active, well supported and authentic inclusion and development of people with lived/living experience of distress or mental health issues at all stages and levels of the process
- Working relationships based on collaboration and partnership
- Prioritising co- (design, creation, production, evaluation) practices and processes where feasible and as much as possible
- Focus on building the capacity of organisations and capability of their staff to engage, partner and effectively involve and/or provide care for people with lived/living experience that endures beyond the lifespan of the project
- Influencing and designing positive real change for and with people with lived/living experience of distress or mental health issues, or the services and systems they interact with

#### About the Peer Project Worker Position:

**The Peer Project Worker will work with LELAN primarily to coordinate the *Our Experiences through COVID Project*.** Input into other work of the organisation will occur where there is capacity.

The role of the Peer Project Worker will be to:

- **Connect with and learn from the lived/living experience** community about the effects of COVID19 on their mental health and wellbeing, including ideas they have for improving services or helping others who may be new to experiencing distress and mental health issues
- **Disseminate that information to the mental health and social sector** so that the experiences, perspective and solution ideas of people who experiences distress, mental health issues and psychosocial disability are considered and addressed
- **Provide a connection point for people with lived/living experience who want to be actively involved in COVID19 recovery efforts** that communities, services and the state are now faced with
- **Be a resource for the sector** to access people with lived/living experience to be involved in the co-design of these responses

To fulfil the requirements of the role the Project Worker will work closely with the LELAN team and the PAG. Relationships with external stakeholders will also be important.

#### Duties and responsibilities:

- Oversee the *Our Experiences through COVID* project plan and milestones
- Chair and provide administrative support to the PAG
- Facilitate the active and meaningful involvement of people with lived/living experience of distress, mental health issues or psychosocial disability in the project (through PAG membership, surveys, forums, co-design initiatives, etc)
- Collate and disseminate the experiences, perspective and solution ideas of people with lived/living experience through high quality written reports and presentations
- Liaise with and inform the mental health and community sector about project findings
- Connect people with lived/living experience to COVID19 involvement and co-design opportunities
- Create opportunities for lived experience led action and inform LELAN's systemic advocacy
- Support robust evaluation of the project and the involvement of people with lived/living experience

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### Skill and experience requirements:

- Lived/living experience of distress, mental health issues or psychosocial disability
- Demonstrated experience of applying lived experience in a work, advocacy or representative role
- Project work experience that demonstrates planning, organisational and problem-solving skills as well as the ability to work independently whilst being part of a team
- Highly developed communication skills that includes group facilitation and co-design experience, quality report writing and delivery of presentations
- Ability to develop supportive, encouraging and engaging relationships with diverse groups
- Qualification in peer work, mental health, community development or related field
- Computer literacy and ability to use Microsoft Office programs
- Commitment to the purpose and values of LELAN

We are committed to inclusion and accessibility for people with lived/living experience and welcome applications from people with: broad distress or mental health experiences (including psychosocial disability); diverse cultural backgrounds (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people); gender or sexually diverse identities (including trans and non-binary); and/or other disabilities.

### Submitting your application:

Applications must include:

- Cover letter addressing each of the skill and experience requirements
- Resume / CV
- The names and contact details of at least two referee's

Further enquiries can be made by emailing [info@lelan.org.au](mailto:info@lelan.org.au) or calling Ellie Hodges, Executive Director, on 0422 888 157. Additional information about LELAN can be accessed at [www.lelan.org.au](http://www.lelan.org.au) .

**Applications close Wednesday July 1<sup>st</sup> at 5pm. Please email them to [info@lelan.org.au](mailto:info@lelan.org.au) .**

Interviews for the position will be held Tuesday July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.