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SA Lived Experience Leadership & Advocacy Network

We amplify the voice, influence and leadership of lived experience to be heard and drive change

info@lelan.org.au | 0431 953 526 | 217-219 Flinders St, Adelaide 5000

Request for Quote: Rapid Literature Review and Project Evaluation

Background information:

The [SA Lived Experience Leadership & Advocacy Network \(LELAN\)](#) is the peak body in South Australia *by, for* and *with* people with lived experience of mental distress, social issues or injustice. Our purpose is to amplify the voice, influence and leadership of people with lived experience to drive systemic change. LELAN has led philanthropic, state and federally funded projects as well as completed commissioned pieces of work for government departments and community managed organisations.

Over the next 18 months LELAN is bringing the [Alternatives to Suicide](#) approach to South Australia and is seeking an evaluation partner to walk this journey with us. Alternatives to Suicide was developed by the [Wildflower Alliance](#) (formerly the Western Mass Recovery Learning Community) in the US. Alternatives to Suicide peer-led community-based groups centre mutual connection and meaning making around suicide distress, thoughts and experiences. They offer non-clinical spaces where people can be honest about their experiences without fear of forced treatment, other forms of coercion, or risk assessment that shuts conversation down.

Whilst the focus of the project is to support the establishment and ongoing running of Alternatives to Suicide groups, another core component is using this model as evidence that community based lived experience-led initiatives work and can be scaled. Five 'pilot' groups targeting different population groups will be part of the formal evaluation. It is envisaged that additional groups will emerge from this work and inform the conceptualisation and design of future lived experience-led alternatives.

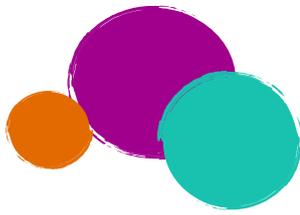
Evaluation objective:

We are seeking an evaluation partner to provide:

1. A Rapid Literature Review on the need for and benefit of peer-led and/or alternative approaches to distress, suicide and/or crisis, and
2. A robust evaluation of the Alternatives to Suicide project, including documenting learnings along the way and how to leverage them so that future lived experience-led initiatives are designed for greater impact.

Key deliverables and timeframe:

- The Rapid Literature Review must be finalised by Friday May 27th, 2022
- A Monitoring and Evaluation Framework must be drafted by Friday June 10th, 2022 and finalised by Friday June 24th, 2022
- A Final Interim evaluation report must be finalised by Friday December 9th, 2022



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- The Final Evaluation Report must be drafted by Friday May 5th, 2023 and finalised by Friday June 2nd, 2023.

Core criteria for completing this work:

LELAN is a lived experience-led organisation that centres lived experience and peer work practice in all that we do. It is essential that all the evaluation team have a nuanced understanding of the lived experience movement and are able to demonstrate the application of lived experience perspective and positioning in their work.

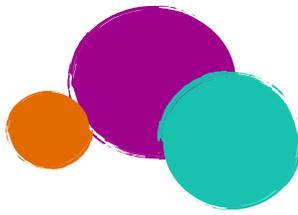
Determining whether you meet this 'criteria' can be tricky. As a guide it is described in our sector that 'people with lived experience' have had experiences that significantly affected their life, changing the way they viewed themselves and their place in the world.

Submitting your quote:

All RFQs should be a written proposal outlining the proposed evaluation methodology, demonstrated experience, proposed budget, CV's of key personnel and contact details of at least two referees. A total budget of \$35 000 (exc GST) is available for this work.

Please forward responses to this Request for Quote to info@lelan.org.au by COB Wednesday April 20th, 2022.

Please contact Ellie Hodges, Executive Director, with questions via ellie@lelan.org.au or 0422 888 1457.



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Quick Responses to Some Questions you May Have

Would the evaluation team be able to be supported by someone who doesn't necessarily have lived experience?

Centring the insights, contributions and leadership of people with lived experience is core to who LELAN is as an organisation and what we advocate for. Given the nature of the Alternatives to Suicide approach and our broader goal of scaling more lived experience-led initiatives, a deep connection to and understanding of consumer perspective and the broader social movement for change is key.

If a member of the evaluation team does not have lived experience your proposal will need to detail their demonstrated experience of being an ally to the lived experience community and aligned perspective. As well as what specific roles they will hold in relation to the evaluation.

If no member of your evaluation team has lived experience, we recommend not putting in a proposal.

A complete literature review is big and could take away from the budget being allocated for a more robust evaluation, is it really needed?

The literature review is an important component of the RFQ, a key word in our description is 'rapid'. Whilst this project is about seeding and embedding Alt2Sui groups throughout South Australia the overall agenda is to disrupt and change systems so that more lived experience-led initiatives emerge.

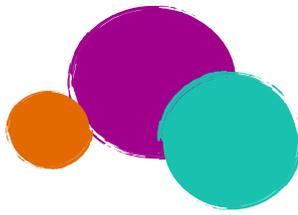
Clinical Governance Frameworks currently decide how systems respond to people experiencing distress, and they are absolutely challenged by the Alt2Sui approach. We know first-hand and have had to work hard with our partners – over many, many months – to secure the funding we have.

The 'Rapid Literature Review' will be used by the LELAN team to shape the narrative around the broader project agenda and work with the mental health and social sectors to grapple with implementing new approaches and doing things differently. The narrative and our advocacy will be one of the keys to succeeding in this work and will be helped immensely by having contextualised rationale and evidence to support this.

How detailed should our proposal be?

The annoying response to this question is *not too long, but long enough*.

It is important that we get a strong sense of who you are, how you align with this work (and LELAN as an organisation) and how you would approach the evaluation. Methodology is important but there is also a lot



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of unique and important-to-us elements that you don't know about yet so we also wouldn't want that too set in stone.

Are the evaluation outputs and timeframes flexible?

Maybe, but not the Rapid Literature Review.

We are happy for you to pitch your approach and we will work with our chosen evaluation partner to finalise the exact timeline we move forward with together.

Do you mind if we change your parameters and pitch the best approach as we see it?

Please see responses to previous questions. We are also really happy to talk your ideas through or clarify some things you have questions about. Please email ellie@lelan.org.au or call on 0422 888 157.

We can't commit to this evaluation at the moment, but we have skills and interest to contribute in other ways. How would we do this?

Thank you so much, we are excited about this project too and there will be a number of different ways to be involved. We will pass your details to our Peer Project Worker who will be in touch once they settle in, this won't be until late April.

In the interim please email info@lelan.org.au and we will make sure she connects with you soon.