



www.lelan.org.au

SA Lived Experience Leadership & Advocacy Network | ABN: 98 469 662 123

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

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Wednesday December 6th, 2023

LELAN has announced current Executive Director & Founder Ellie Hodges will be stepping aside in early 2024 though will remain in a key leadership role with the organisation. This decision will bring a transformative shift in organisational structure and enhance LELAN's capacity to advocate for the rights and contributions of the lived experience community in South Australia and thought leadership nationally.

Since being founded in 2017, LELAN has garnered widespread recognition as a formidable advocate and representative peak for people with lived experience of mental distress, social issues and injustice. National recognition for LELAN's innovative approaches to co-design, leadership, and conceptualisations of lived experience governance has solidified the organisations and Ellie's standing as a pioneering force in the lived experience space.

A grounded, collective, and strategic approach has been core to LELAN's success. Ellie's decision to transition away from leading LELAN comes at a time of impressive organisational impact and maturity, forging a path for continued growth and a revitalised strategic approach under new leadership, a strengthened team and engaged Board.

The key leadership roles being announced will sustain LELAN's purpose and foster systemic change at a state level, whilst enabling an increased focus on thought leadership and innovation on a national scale. It is anticipated the new leadership structure will be fully operational in early 2024.

New Leadership Roles:

1. Chief Executive Officer (CEO):

The CEO will steer LELAN's positioning as the peak body for lived experience in South Australia. Collaborating closely with members, the broader lived experience community, and key partners, they will champion positive change in the mental health system and drive the overall strategic agenda.

2. Executive Director of Thought Leadership & Innovation:

Ellie Hodges, the current Executive Director & Founder, will transition to this pivotal role. Leveraging her extensive knowledge and deep understanding of lived experience, Ellie will continue to effect transformative systems change at a state and national level.

LELAN is enthusiastic about the positive impact this evolution will bring and remain committed as ever to amplifying the voice, influence and leadership of people with lived experience of mental distress, social issues and injustice.

... with heart,

Danielle Bament (Board Chair) and Ellie Hodges (Executive Director & Founder)