**An Invitation to peer workers in Mental Health and Alcohol and other Drug Services**

The Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System wanted a future mental health and wellbeing system where people with lived and living experience (LLE) both consumers and carers, take a range ofleadership positions, working with others to lead and influence change.

The Commission also recommended the establishment of Interim Regional Bodies (IRBs) to provide advice to the Department of Health as it plans, develops, coordinates, funds and monitors a range of mental health and wellbeing services in each region.

In the Barwon South West (BSW) Region the IRB is running projects to have conversation and hear key voices. One of these projects is about the leadership of people with lived and living experience (LLE) of mental health issues, psychological distress, or mental health diagnoses and alcohol and other drug issues and their carers/family/supporters.

This project will consider three aspects of LLE leadership and empowerment:

1. Consumer voice and choice in care and treatment and appropriate inclusion of family, kin and supporters
2. The involvement of people with lived and living experience and expertise in governance and advisory roles
3. The role and capacity of the LLE workforce across and at all levels of the regional mental health system and AOD sector.

Focus groups are being held in the region on the following dates and you are invited to attend. These will either be in person or online and you chose your preference. If you can’t attend we will look at other options for your involvement. For further information and to register contact SHARC on **95731740** or email **slittle@sharc.org.au**

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| **Location** | **Group** | **Date** | **Time** | **Venue** |
| **Geelong** | **LLE workers** | **23rd November** | **3:00pm** | Library 51 Little Malop Street  Geelong |
| **Colac** | **LLE workers** | **24th November** | **3:00pm** | Library 173 Queen Street, Colac |
| **Online** | **LLE workers**  **Consumers** | **29th November** | **2:00pm** |  |
| **Online** | **LLE workers**  **Carers** | **29th November** | **4:00pm** |  |

**A payment of $180 plus GST will be made to each participant in acknowledgement of time and expertise if this is not part of your work and is in your own time.**

**SHARC** **acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and culture.  We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.**