

## Roses in the Ocean SP Peer Workforce Support Framework



The NSW Government's commitment to trialling the most innovative approaches to suicide prevention in Australia has resulted in its funding of a range of new services, including emergency department alternatives, outreach teams, and expanded postvention programs. The NSW Ministry of Health recognises the need for a significant state-wide Suicide Prevention/Postvention (SP) Peer Workforce to staff these new services, and has produced a *SP Peer Workforce Guidance* document to assist NSW LHDs to support the rollout of this workforce.

Roses in the Ocean fully endorses this guidance document and believes it is critical that a robust framework is implemented to bolster support for the emerging SP Peer Workforce. In response to this need, it has developed a *SP Peer Workforce Support Framework* which builds on the considerable work already undertaken by the Mental Health Peer Work sector but is explicitly informed by the Self Help Addiction Resource Centre (SHARC) AOD Peer Work framework.

SHARC's AOD Workforce Framework was specifically designed for the purposes of articulating the independent infrastructure required to support an effective and sustainable peer workforce for a specific lived experience context and cohort related to, but distinct from, mental health. It therefore represents the most pertinent example of how to develop a supportive framework for the emerging lived experience workforce in the suicide prevention sector.



Roses in the Ocean’s comprehensive Support Framework harnesses its existing body of expertise and resources.

Roses in the Ocean is the national leader in lived experience-led systemic advocacy, and a key information source for the wider sector and community. Informing, influencing, and educating organisations about how to effectively engage lived experience expertise is part of the core business of Roses in the Ocean. It has extensive experience in facilitating consultation processes to build an organisation’s capacity to integrate lived experience into its culture.

Roses in the Ocean is also Australia’s leading provider of training for people with a lived experience of suicide and has been contracted by the NSW Ministry of Health to design specific SP Peer Worker training as an accompaniment to current peer work education. Roses in the Ocean already delivers a Peer Mentoring Program that includes a Mentoring Call Back Service that supports lived experience participants in its foundational training programs.

Roses in the Ocean has also developed a national Lived Experience Collective, comprised of lived experience champions across Australia, and has been contracted by the NSW Ministry of Health to establish Lived Experience Advisory Groups in all NSW LHDs, whose lived experience members will be trained and supported by Roses in the Ocean to participate in the co-design of the NSW Ministry of Health’s Towards Zero Suicides initiatives.

Roses in the Ocean is therefore able to rapidly adapt its existing expertise and resources to suit the needs of a professional lived experience workforce.

## Roses in the Ocean’s menu of services to support the SP Peer Workforce

