



**Lived
Experience**
AUSTRALIA

CAPABILITY STATEMENT



Company Details

Company Name	Lived Experience Australia Limited
Previously known as	Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (Australia) Limited
ABN/ACN	44 613 210 889 / 613 210 889
Year Established	2002
Legal Structure	Australian Public Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered Office	Dulwich, South Australia
Postal Address	PO Box 542, Marden SA 5070
Phone	1300 620 042
Website	www.livedexperienceaustralia.com.au
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Title	Executive Director
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COMPANY MISSION

Engage, empower, enable choice in mental health.

COMPANY VISION

To promote effective consumer and carer advocacy as the driving force behind all changes in mental health services.

Our core business is to advise and advocate for systemic change, empowerment of consumers in their own care, promoting engagement and inclusion of consumers and carers within system design, planning and evaluation and importantly, advocating for consumer choice and family and carer inclusion.

COMPANY HISTORY

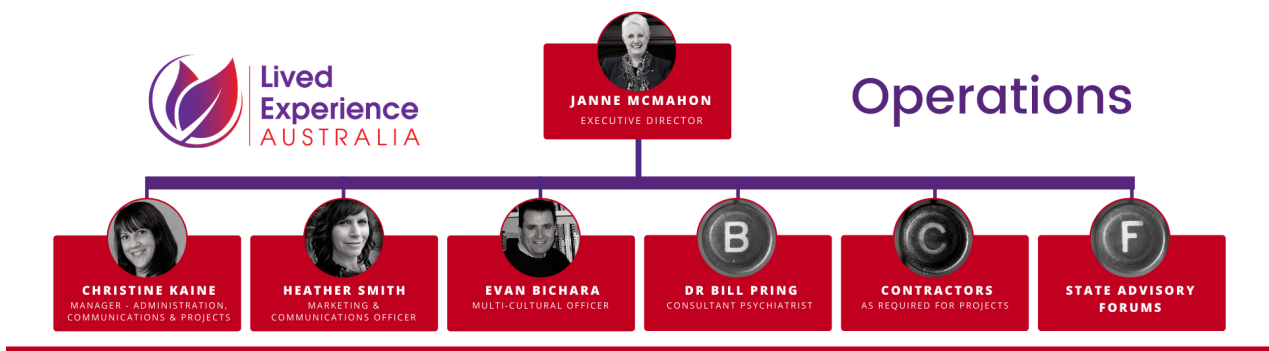
Lived Experience Australia Limited (LEA) was previously known as the Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (Australia) Limited, established in 2002. The goal of LEA is to advocate for change and be a recognised voice for members of the community who receive treatment and care from mental health services, their families, and carers.

LEA is an integral part of key policy and decision-making processes, and provides a strong representative voice, for mental health consumers, families, and carers. LEA facilitates the sharing of the lived experience of mental health problems, addresses common issues, and encourages people to seek help.

LEA is the recognised national organisation representing and comprised of both mental health consumers and carers.

OUR TEAM

Lived Experience Australia Board



ALL DIRECTORS AND STAFF HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCE AS CONSUMERS AND/OR CARERS.

This is our strength.

LEA has direct connections to both consumers and carers, providing one combined voice for those most affected by policies developed in relation to mental health services.

Importantly, we are actively growing our database of community members who have a lived experience, who contribute to our research, training, submissions, and policy development. We are able to draw on these experiences promptly and efficiently in order to conduct research and provide supporting evidence for our work.

COLLABORATIONS

GOVERNMENT

- Australian Government Department of Health
- National Disability Insurance Agency
- Australian Government Department of Social Services
- Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare
- National Mental Health Commission
- South Australian Government
- South Australian Chief Psychiatrist
- South Australian Government Mental Health Commission
- Queensland Mental Health Commission

NON-GOVERNMENT

- University of South Australia
- University of Victoria
- Flinders University
- LaTrobe University
- RMIT
- Newcastle University
- Australian Institute of Health Innovation
- Brain and Mind Centre
- Australian Private Hospitals Association
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists
- Australian Psychological Society
- The Productivity Commission
- Mind Australia
- Mental Health Australia
- Mental Health Carers Australia
- HelpingMinds
- Ramsay Health Care SA

CAPABILITY & CAPACITY

FORMAL REPRESENTATION

LEA has a 'Representative Panel' comprising skilled and experienced consumer and carer advocates. Members from this panel are available to participate in key advisory groups or on committees regarding consumer and carer inclusion. Representatives have participated in Government, Private and Community Mental Health Sector advisory groups, panels, conferences, and presentations.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

LEA conducts research to determine the views and needs of those with lived experience as a consumer or carer of someone experiencing mental ill-health. In partnership with Universities and other institutions, we can contribute to broader research. We have previously partnered with LaTrobe University, RMIT, Newcastle University, Flinders University, University of NSW, Brain and Mind Centre and the Australian Institute of Health Innovation. Publications from this research are made available through the LEA website.

SUBMISSIONS & INQUIRIES

LEA holds the respect of Government and has been invited to appear before ten federal parliamentary inquiries and made seventy one formal submissions to Government. In 2020 alone, LEA provided submissions to 12 inquiries, including the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Mental Health, and the Suicide Prevention Taskforce.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

We provide training to support clinicians, organisations, advocates, consumers, and carers. We encourage best practice in consumer and carer inclusion. Our training courses have been adapted in 2020 to suit remote learning, and we have established webinars to encourage connection amongst our members during COVID-19.

PROJECT SHOWCASE

Borderline Personality Disorder Research Project

Two national surveys were conducted in 2011 and again in 2017 around the experiences of consumers with the diagnosis of BPD and the experiences of carers supporting someone with the diagnosis of BPD. These were a first nationally and importantly, internationally. The 2015 consumer experiences of BPD published report has been cited in 77 different publications by mental health researchers internationally and the experiences of carers published report has been cited in 50 papers.

Towards Professionalism: A feasibility study into a member based organisation for the peer workforce in Australia

Results of the project identify what peer workers want from a national organisation, governance, models, and financial or in-kind support available. Additionally, the report provided information on resources targeting employers and workplaces and future work the National Mental Health Commission could undertake. A full report was completed, including a Literature Review and Tip Sheets for Peer Workers, available through the LEA website.

Report into the Potential Service Model for Adult Mental Health Centres

In discussions with the Department of Health, LEA conducted a short-term survey (14 days duration) across Australia in order to provide a targeted response from the consumer and carer perspective into the consultation for the 8 Adult Mental Health Centres (AMHCs). The survey results were provided in a detailed report to the Department of Health to have a clear understanding of consumer and carer perspectives into these proposed facilities.

Missing Middle Research Report: Why people fall through the gaps or do not receive the mental health care they need

LEA conducted a national research project consulting with consumers and carers to identify why people disengage or fall through the gaps and miss out on needed mental health services. This detailed survey enabled us to have a better understanding of the 'missing middle' and what that means for people, beyond just a term. How consumers', families' and carers' lives are affected has been captured in this ground-breaking national survey, a first of its kind in Australia.

