

## Project Update – April 2021

The 30<sup>th</sup> of March was a big milestone for the alcohol and other drug peer workforce project with our first group of peer trainees completing their peer workforce training program.

The project partners DEN, Holyoake, Salvation Army and YFCC are very proud of our trainees' achievement in reaching this milestone and acknowledge all the trainees' hard work, commitment, enthusiasm for learning and sharing with each other throughout this learning journey.

The trainees have delved into a range of topics including peer work values, active listening, understanding and establishing boundaries, how to work within a multi-disciplinary team, working with diverse client groups, self-care and understanding the importance of trauma-informed practice.

In this second part of the training, the group have benefitted from the expertise of a range of guest speakers from Working it Out, Kutalayna Health, TasCAHRD, the Kentish Regional Clinic, Holyoake, Salvation Army, YFCC and ATDC. We sincerely thank our guest presenters for enriching this training program and broadening the perspectives of our trainees.

The pioneer graduates of this peer training program are very excited to take the next steps in their peer mentor work with their sponsoring organisations. The peer mentors will be undertaking a range of roles, including co-facilitating group work, community education about services' programs and supporting client engagement with services.



Pictured from left to right back row: Ben Wright, Paul Arthur, Jonathan Wheeler, Bek Barwick  
front row: Ella Stott, Kiara Digby, Ellen Oakford, Rose Ward (not pictured Jeffrey Ryan)

### Funding Partners:

## PEER SPECIFIC SUPERVISION AND PEER COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

With the support and input of SHARC, (Self Help Addiction Resource Centre) an alcohol and drug peer worker community of practice (COP) was established in December, via online monthly meetings.

The COP will continue to provide opportunities for the peer mentors to maintain their connections and support during this new period of learning and development. The COP has recently met with representatives from the mental health peer work sector and this exchange of learning and professional support is planned to continue throughout 2021.

## NEXT STEPS

The project partners are currently in the process of recruiting the next cohort to begin their placements and training later this year.

## NEEDING MORE INFORMATION?

Any further questions about the Project please contact Maria Duggan: [maria@den.org.au](mailto:maria@den.org.au)

On behalf of the Peer Workforce Project partners and the DEN Team

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