



Mental Health
Australia
Media release

Mental Health Australia welcomes Government's \$7.5m investment for lived experience leadership

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Mental Health Australia has commended the Federal Government's announcement that it will invest \$7.5 million to establish two independent national mental health lived experience peak bodies.

Mental Health Australia's Acting Chief Executive Officer, Harry Lovelock, said that the announcement by the Minister for Health and Aged Care and the Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, to establish two independent national mental health lived experience peak bodies will be welcomed by the sector.

"The establishment of two peaks - one consumer and one carer - led by those with lived experience was a recommendation of the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Mental Health and it is something Mental Health Australia has long advocated for," said Mr Lovelock.

"One of Mental Health Australia's strategic goals is to promote a national voice for those with lived experience of mental illness and for those who love and care for them. Mental Health Australia again called for establishment of these peaks in our pre-budget submission – so this is a great outcome as we shift the system to one that is driven by those with lived experience.

"Mental Health Australia is eager to work the government, its member Lived Experience Australia, and the broader sector to establish these two groups," said Mr Lovelock.

Mental Health Australia Chair, Matt Berriman, said that he was pleased with the Ministers' joint announcement.

"As someone with lived experience of mental ill-health, it's critical we are at the table – shaping and driving the reform Australia desperately needs. It's a positive step and I know the sector will be eager to support the establishment and implementation," said Mr Berriman.

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