



**MHACA**  
Mental Health  
Association of  
Central Australia



## Promoting Peer Work in the NT - 2020

### Accredited Training: 4 x units Cert IV Peer Work

- CHCPWK001 – Apply peer work practices in the mental health sector
- CHCPWK003 – Apply lived experience in mental health peer work
- CHCPWK002 – Contribute to the continuous improvement of mental health services
- CHCPWK004 – Work effectively in consumer mental health peer work **OR**
- CHCPWK005 – Work effectively in carer mental health peer work

### Information for prospective students

Please fill out an [Expression of Interest Form](#) by August 7.

**Certificate IV Mental Health Peer Work – CHC43515** is a nationally recognised qualification developed in conjunction with a steering committee of peer workers and organisations in the mental health field. The Promoting Peer Work NT - 2020 project has negotiated with Mental Health Victoria and Wodonga TAFE to offer 4 units in Peer Work which are unique to that Cert IV and represent **25%** of the full course. These units are being made available for the first time in the NT. The training requires an 80hr work placement. It is suitable for people with lived experience who are working (paid or unpaid) in mental health-related services or able to organise this. Good literacy and numeracy are needed at Cert IV level. 1 session every 3 weeks on Friday mornings.

**Dates:** September 11; October 2; October 23; November 13; December 4

**Time:** 9am -12:30pm, Fridays.

Plus a weekly 1 hour extended learning session on the Fridays in between the session dates which is optional but recommended. This is an online session (Zoom) where students log on for a check-in, extra discussion and activities.

**Location:**(same dates in all locations)

- **Darwin:** CDU, Casuarina
- **Alice Springs:** MHACA, Lindsay Ave, East Side.
- **Other NT locations:** Students outside Darwin & Alice Springs have an online option.

**Cost:** Free to NT residents

**Delivery:**

The 5 training sessions will be presented online by Mental Health Victoria's Lorelle Zemunik. Lorelle is a peer who has been delivering training for many years including teaching the Cert IV Peer Work in Melbourne for Wodonga TAFE. Due to COVID this training is now available online and is being offered for the first time in the NT.

In Darwin, the training will be delivered to a group of 12-15 students at Charles Darwin University's Casuarina campus. There will be a local facilitator, Amanda Brain, to support the group and the online trainer. Amanda is the trainer for the Cert IV Mental Health at CDU which is helpful to students who want to continue towards a full Cert IV.

In Alice Springs a smaller group of up to 5 students will learn together in the MHACA training room with support from local facilitator and project officer Ruth Apelt.

Research confirms that it is important for peers to learn Face-2-Face, to build relationships and to support each other in their training and future employment. The challenges of mental health peer work are best understood by colleagues with lived experience.

## **80 hours work placement**

To gain accreditation, students need to have access to an 80 hour work placement or be able to organise this. The work placement (paid or unpaid) needs to occur during the study period (September - December) because there are some practical assessments to be completed. The work placement does not need to be for the entire time. If you have a potential work placement host, the project can liaise on your behalf about the requirements. Please let us know as soon as possible because this process takes time.

## **Pathways to full accreditation (post training)**

After completing these 4 units students will have two pathways towards a full Cert IV:

### 1. Cert IV MH Peer Work: -> CDU -> Wodonga TAFE

Students could then enrol at CDU in the Cert IV Mental Health and complete 10 units that are common to the Cert IV MH and Cert IV MH PW. Studying at CDU is subsidised for NT residents. However CDU cannot award the Cert IV MH Peer Work so students would need to enrol at Wodonga TAFE and complete a final unit to be awarded this qualification. The pathway looks like this:

- 4 units - project training through Wodonga TAFE
- 10 units - CDU Cert IV Mental Health - units that are common to both Cert IVs
- 1 final unit - Wodonga TAFE

### 2. Cert IV Mental Health: -> CDU

Alternatively, the 4 peer work units will gain RPL towards the Cert IV Mental Health at CDU. Study at CDU is subsidised for NT residents.

## **Selection criteria to participate in training**

Places are limited for this free training so please submit an [Expression of Interest Form](#) asap and by August 7.

### Essential Qualities

- Lived Experience of mental illness and recovery.
- Good communication skills
- Interest in other people and ability to really listen and support their recovery
- Ability to self-reflect and discuss life experiences as a journey
- Available to attend all the training session dates
- Access to 80 hr work placement (paid or unpaid) within the course dates.
- Access to computer/internet to log on to the 1 hour sessions between the training dates
- Minimum: Grade 10 literacy and numeracy.

### Desirable skills and knowledge

- Experience working with peer groups or individuals
- Ability to navigate the mental health system in the Northern Territory

## **Selection Process**

Submit an [Expression of Interest Form](#) to the Project Officer by August 7<sup>th</sup>. There are a maximum of 20 places available across the NT for this training. The project will give priority to Mental Health Peer Workers who are seeking qualification. MH Peer Workers are people with lived experience of mental illness and recovery who identify that lived experience in the work place and are trained to use their experience to assist others on their recovery journey. The requirement for an 80 hr work placement (paid or unpaid) is essential. Some applicants may not be working as peers currently but may have relationships with organisations where a work placement could be established. If this applies to you please let us know as soon as possible.

If you are interested in the training but not able to meet the requirements, please consider [the Foundations in Peer Work](#) training which will be delivered over 5 weeks in September and is based on this course material.

***After the project's EOI process, suitable candidates then do a Pre-Training Review and Evaluation through Wodonga TAFE which considers if people have sufficient skills to succeed at Cert IV level.***

For more information please contact the project worker: [ruth.apelt@mhaca.org.au](mailto:ruth.apelt@mhaca.org.au) mob: 0427 285 123