



Your ref : A782928  
Our ref : MHC19/97254  
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Hon Alison Xamon MLC  
Chair  
Select Committee into Alternate Approaches to  
Reducing Illicit Drug Use and its Effects on the  
Community  
18-32 Parliament Place  
WEST PERTH, WA

Dear Hon Alison Xamon MLC

**INQUIRY INTO ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO REDUCING ILLICIT DRUG USE AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE COMMUNITY**

Thank you for your letter dated 16 October 2019, requesting further information regarding the alcohol and other drug (AOD) peer workforce.

In reply to your questions I wish to provide you with the information detailed below:

The Mental Health Commission (MHC) has developed the draft Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Workforce Strategic Framework 2019-2025 (Workforce Strategic Framework), which is currently being graphically designed. Following final review by the MHC, and approval by the Minister for Mental Health, it is expected that the Workforce Strategic Framework will be publically released by the end of 2019.

Development of the peer workforce, is a key component of the Workforce Strategic Framework which includes various strategies and actions to expand and build the capacity of the peer workforce. For example, Priority Area Two is to *ensure the specialist workforce is adequately configured and supported to meet the requirements of the Western Australian community*. As part of this priority area, there are a number of strategies and actions which aim to address the needs of the peer workforce, noting that this is inclusive of both the mental health and AOD peer workforce.

Thank you for seeking further input from the MHC, I trust that this information is of use to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Elaine Paterson  
A/COMMISSIONER

31 October 2019