

2026 National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Lived Experience (Peer) Workforce Census

Collection statement

Background and purpose

The 2026 National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Lived Experience (Peer) Workforce Census (the Census) is being conducted by the Social Research Centre together with The Australian Centre for Social Innovation (TACSI) on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (the department).

The Census aims to better understand Australia's Lived Experience (Peer) workforce in mental health and suicide prevention settings. It will identify what the workforce needs, its strengths, and where there are gaps. This information will help guide future planning, and long-term support for the workforce across Australia.

This Census is for people who are working in roles where their lived experience of mental health challenges and/or suicide – and the related knowledge, skills, or training – is an essential requirement of their role. Using lived experience means drawing on your personal experiences or experiences supporting someone (as a family, carer or kin) through mental health challenges and/or suicide, including distress, crisis, attempts, ideation, self-harm, or bereavement.

We will only use the information you provide for the purposes of this study. No identifiable information will be shared with your employer or the department. Your responses will be combined with others in reporting, and no individual or organisation will be identifiable.

This survey should take around 15 minutes to complete.

Participation in this research is voluntary. You can choose not to answer any question by selecting 'don't know' or 'prefer not to say'. You can decide to stop at any time. Please allow enough time, about 15 minutes, to complete the Census in one sitting. If you need to step away, please keep your browser open and this will allow you to return to your responses. **Your responses will only save once you reach the end of the Census and click 'Next' to submit.**

Who is conducting the research?

The Social Research Centre has been engaged by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to conduct the research.

Information held and collected

Contact details were sourced through publicly available information and stakeholders in the sector. These sources were used to identify organisations that employ or host of Lived Experience (Peer) workers. Publicly available information includes things like websites and online job advertisements.

As part of the Census we will collect personal information, such as age, gender, income, language spoken, disability status and other personal characteristics.

Your personal information will be retained by the Social Research Centre while the survey is open. Once the Census is closed, your information will be permanently de-identified.

Disclosure and use

Your responses to the questions in the Census will be analysed by the Social Research Centre for the purpose of this research study only. De-identified data may be used:

- To produce reports on the Census findings;

- For future research and publications related to this study or the same area of research;
- By the department for further analysis; and
- By approved researchers engaged by the department.

Other matters

The Social Research Centre fully complies with the Australian Privacy Principles and all applicable privacy legislation. Our [privacy policy](#) contains general information on how the Social Research Centre protects your privacy rights. It also contains information about how we secure your data, how you can make a privacy-related complaint, access and correction of your information, and the general circumstances under which your information may be disclosed to overseas recipients.