

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

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Please read this document in full before deciding whether to participate in the Census. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of the Census, please contact the Principal Investigator via the phone number or email address included below.

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The Social Research Centre
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Why are we doing this research?

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.

The Census is being carried out by the Social Research Centre together with The Australian Centre for Social Innovation (TACSI) on behalf of, and funded by, the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (the department).

The Census asks about your job, training, work environment, job satisfaction, challenges, support needs and some questions about you.

The questions have been developed with and alongside members of the Lived Experience (Peer) workforce.

Who is eligible to participate?

To participate in the Census, you must be working in a role or have recently worked in a role (within the last 2 years), where your lived experience, whether personal or as a carer, family member or kin, is/was an essential requirement of your role in mental health and/or suicide prevention. This role can be paid or unpaid (like a volunteer) and may exist within the mental health or suicide prevention sector and/or related settings.

If you are unsure whether your role qualifies, please consider whether your lived experience is a formal requirement and/or a core component of your work. This Census is intended for roles where lived experience is explicitly required, or intentionally central to the position. If this applies to your role, you are encouraged to participate.

What does participation involve?

By choosing to take part, you agree to complete a one-off Census. The Census will take around 15 minutes to complete. At the start of the Census, you will be asked some eligibility questions to confirm that you meet the requirements and then based on your answers, the length may be longer or shorter.

To assist with Census management and quality assurance, we will record your IP address and the invitation link you used to access the Census. These details will be removed before analysis so that your responses cannot be linked back to you or your organisation.

It is important to note that you will need to complete the Census in one sitting. Responses will only be saved once you reach the end of the Census and click 'Next' to submit. If you exit before submitting, your responses will not be saved. If you need to step away, please keep your browser open and this will allow you to return to your responses.

Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

If you complete the Census, you agree that the information you provide will be used by the research team as detailed in this document.

Taking part in the Census is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and then change your mind, you do not have to complete the Census.

Once you submit your Census responses, they cannot be withdrawn.

Possible benefits and risks

This is the first-ever national Census designed to better understand the Lived Experience (Peer) workforce in mental health and suicide prevention settings. By participating, you are helping create a strong evidence base that benefits the entire sector and supports you personally as you continue in your role, leading to:

- Better support and resources to help you do your job well.
- Clearer roles and career pathways for growth and security.
- Training that fits your needs and strengthens your skills.
- Recognition and advocacy for the value of your work; and
- A stronger, sustainable workforce for the future.

With this focus, we don't anticipate that the Census will cause distress. However, we recommend that you take your time while completing the Census and consider having a support person with you, if appropriate.

If at any point you do experience feelings of distress or discomfort please stop and take a break, or if required, you can seek support from the following organisations.

Lifeline

13 11 14

www.lifeline.org.au

Beyond Blue

1300 22 4636

www.beyondblue.org.au

13YARN

13 92 76

www.13yarn.org.au

Roses in the Ocean

1800 777 337

www.rosesintheocean.com.au

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Many employers offer access to an EAP.

The EAP contact details will be different between organisations. If you would like to contact your EAP, please check with them for the correct contact details.

Confidentiality and storage of data

All information you provide in the Census will be kept confidential and used only for research purposes.

No identifiable information obtained by the Social Research Centre 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.

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.

The Social Research Centre will keep your information secure and confidential in accordance with relevant state and federal privacy legislation, including the *Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)* and the *Archives Act 1983 (Cth)*. Your data will be stored electronically by the Social Research Centre.

Your information will not be shared or used for any other purpose without your explicit consent. Any files containing personal information will be deleted in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles.

You can find more information about how the Social Research Centre manages your data in our [Privacy Policy](#). The policy explains how you can access or correct your information, how to make a privacy complaint, and how we will respond. You can also contact our Privacy Officer on (03) 9236 8500 or at privacy@srcentre.com.au.

Results

The Social Research Centre will share Census findings with the department, who will then decide how to share the report and results to the broader workforce and facilitate the public release of the report.

Complaints

The Iris Ethics Human Research Ethics Committee has reviewed and approved this study in accordance with [2025 National Statement](#) on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. This Statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies. Should you wish to discuss the study or view a copy of the complaint procedure with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you can find more information at their [Complaints Policy](#) page, or by contacting complaints@irisethics.com.au.

You can note the following protocol number: **S00084**

Thank you again for your consideration of the first-ever National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Lived Experience (Peer) Workforce Census. We greatly appreciate your input.