

# Briefing

## Publication of Peer Support Workforce Insights Paper

<b>Date due to MO:</b>	20/06/2023	<b>Action required by:</b>	23/06/2023
<b>Security level:</b>	UNCLASSIFIED	<b>Briefing number:</b>	BN2023-017
<b>To:</b>	Hon Ayesha Verrall, Minister of Health		
<b>Copy to:</b>	Hon Peeni Henare, Associate Minister of Health (Māori Health) Hon Barbara Edmonds, Associate Minister of Health (Pacific Peoples) [REDACTED]		

## Contact for Telephone Discussion

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	[REDACTED]
Karen Orsborn	Chief Executive	[REDACTED]
Tanya Maloney	Director, Mental Health, and Addiction Sector Leadership	[REDACTED]

## Minister's Office to Complete

- |  |                                    |   |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved            | <input type="checkbox"/> Decline   | <input type="checkbox"/> Noted              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change        | <input type="checkbox"/> Seen      | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's note | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |   |

Comment:

# Publication of Peer Support Workforce Insights Paper

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**Security level:** UNCLASSIFIED **Date:** 20/06/2023

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**To:** Hon Ayesha Verrall, Minister of Health

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## Purpose of report

1. The Peer Support Workforce Insights paper is scheduled to be published on 29 June 2023. This briefing informs you of the key findings.
2. A copy of the paper is attached as Appendix 1.

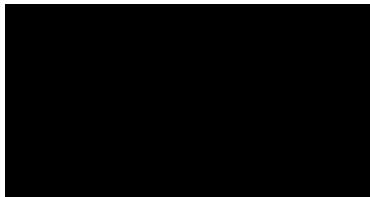
## Summary of the paper and calls to action

3. There is a strategic shift towards greater development of the peer support and lived experience workforces from the voices of tāngata whaiora and mental health and addiction plans and frameworks.
4. Available evidence shows that peer support provides benefits to tāngata whaiora with increased hope, satisfaction, psychosocial outcomes, and quality of life. More research on the outcomes from peer support needs to be conducted in an Aotearoa context, with a focus on Māori peer support and using outcomes determined by lived experience.
5. The peer support workforce makes up an estimated 3.4% of the adult specialist workforce in 2022. From 2018 to 2022, it has grown slightly faster than the total mental health and addiction workforce, but not enough to make a noticeable change in their proportion of the mental health and addiction workforce.
6. We heard from tāngata whaiora in our focus groups that there is great potential to develop and spread Māori models of peer support based on a Te Ao Māori worldview and employing kaimahi tāngata whaiora Māori.
7. We also heard from tāngata whaiora about the crucial role that lived experience leadership roles play in supporting transformation of the system and in the growth and development of the peer workforce.
8. We call for the development of a mental health and addiction workforce strategy and roadmap that includes development of the lived experience workforce. This should include:
  - a. Development of the tāngata whaiora Māori workforce
  - b. Training and education for the heath workforce
  - c. Strategies to attract peer support workforce.

## Recommendations

Te Hiringa Mahara recommends that you:

a)	<b>note</b> the attached Peer Support Workforce Insights paper	<b>Yes / No</b>
b)	<b>note</b> the attached communications plan for the paper	<b>Yes / No</b>
c)	<b>note</b> that Te Hiringa Mahara intends to proactively release this briefing as part of our proactive release policy.	<b>Yes / No</b>



Karen Orsborn  
**Chief Executive**  
Date: 20/06/2023

Hon Ayesha Verrall  
**Minister of Health**  
Date:



# Publication of Peer Support Workforce Insights Paper

## Context

1. Aotearoa New Zealand currently faces a shortage of workers for the mental health and addiction system with vacancy rates doubling from 2018 to 2022. New service investments struggle to recruit to all positions, and often attract workforce from existing services.
2. The voices of tāngata whaiora have repeatedly called for expansion of the peer support workforce as highlighted in He Ara Oranga. Recent policy and strategic directions such as Kia Manawanui Aotearoa: Long-term pathway to mental wellbeing and the Oranga Hinengaro System and Service Framework have signalled the intention to build the lived experience workforce.
3. The Peer Support Workforce paper draws together the existing information and evidence on the peer support workforce with the perspectives from our focus groups. It will support a shared understanding of the current state of the workforce and a platform from which to advocate for its ongoing development.

## Next Steps

4. We have attached a Communications and Engagement plan as Appendix 2. Our media release will be given to your office prior to publication.

## Attachments

- Appendix 1 Peer Support Workforce Insights paper
- Appendix 2 Communications and Engagement plan

**ENDS**

