

# Terms of Reference – Expert Advisory Group

## He Ara Āwhina Framework

This document outlines the terms of reference for the expert advisory group (EAG) for the He Ara Āwhina framework.

### 0. Background

#### Purpose of framework

The He Ara Āwhina framework is being developed to support the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission's (the Commission) functions to:

- assess and report on the effectiveness, efficiency, and adequacy of approaches to mental health and wellbeing
- monitor mental health services and addiction services
- make recommendations and advocate for improvement to services and approaches
- advocate for the collective interests of people who experience mental distress or addiction (or both), and the people (including family and whānau) who support them.

Through its design and implementation, the framework will support the Commission to be grounded in Te Tiriti o Waitangi and uphold equity. It will encourage a shared vision for mental health and addiction system transformation and is a partner framework to the Commission's He Ara Oranga wellbeing outcomes framework. The wellbeing outcomes framework describes the ends we are working towards, He Ara Āwhina describes the means.

#### Scope of framework

The framework will:

- provide an outline of the mental health and addiction system from a te Ao Māori perspective and a shared perspective, including:
  - approaches and services that respond to the needs and aspirations of people and whānau who experience mental distress or addiction (including substance use or gambling harm) or both
  - prevention and treatment, including harm reduction.
- describe the characteristics of a transformational system

- prioritise where the Commission will focus its monitoring and assessment, including in relation to the Ministry of Health’s Long-Term Pathway to Mental Wellbeing and National System and Services Framework, and the recommendations of He Ara Oranga
- include quantitative measures and qualitative methodology for monitoring and assessment.

There are a number of interdependencies with this work in including the health sector reform, the Long-term Pathway to Mental Wellbeing, the National System and Services Framework and the reform of the Mental Health Act.

## 1. Purpose of the expert advisory group

The purpose of the expert advisory group is to:

- provide advice on the development of the framework
- support the development of a te ao Māori perspective alongside a shared perspective
- review and provide comment on draft versions of the framework
- endorse the final framework for consideration by the He Ara Āwhina steering group.

## 2. Values

The values to guide the mahi (work) are:

- Manākitanga – we are kind, respectful and compassionate; we listen to, and support each other; we value each other’s wellbeing
- Kotahitanga – diversity enriches unity
- Mātauranga – we value te Ao Māori wisdom and knowledge; we are champions of Māori rangatiratanga (authority) and mana motuhake (autonomy) as indigenous people of Aotearoa
- Mātau-ā-wheako – we value and uphold the knowledge and right to self-determination of people lived experience of mental distress, substance use harm and gambling harm
- Māia – we are courageous and bold
- Ngākau Tapatahi – we are authentic and work with integrity
- Whanaungatanga – everyone matters.

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### 3. Accountability and Governance

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission Board is accountable for the He Ara Āwhina framework. The Director of Mental Health and Addiction is the project sponsor, supported by a steering group. The EAG will provide advice and recommendations to the steering group.

### 4. Membership

The EAG will comprise approximately twelve members. The membership will include a diverse range of perspectives. People who are experts in their respective fields and can provide strategic advice on the desired future state of the mental health and addiction system. Criteria for expertise includes:

- a) te Ao Māori (Māori world view) and expertise in kaupapa Māori responses to mental health and addiction
- b) Pacific ways of thinking about and responding to mental health and addiction
- c) lived experience of mental distress
- d) lived experience of harm from substance use or gambling
- e) lived experience of supporting people who have experience of mental distress or substance and gambling harm
- f) public health and community responses to mental health and wellbeing
- g) in-depth knowledge of Ministry of Health strategies and frameworks
- h) thought leaders from the mental health sector, including providers of primary, NGO and specialist services and academics
- i) thought leaders from the addiction sector, including providers of primary, NGO and specialist services and academics.

To further diversify perspectives, the Commission will seek the views of additional mental health and addiction system experts, or support members of the EAG to do so, during the development of the draft framework before public consultation.

### 5. Responsibilities

The EAG has an obligation to conduct its activities in an open and ethical manner. Members are expected to work in partnership with the Initial Commission, and to:

- work strategically towards developing the He Ara Āwhina framework
- work co-operatively and respect the views of others

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- make every effort to attend meetings, and devote sufficient time to become familiar with the supporting information to inform this work
- identify and declare any conflicts of interests and proactively manage any conflicts.

## 6. Meetings and decision-making

Recommendations will be made to the He Ara Āwhina Steering Group.

The EAG will meet on a monthly basis between September and November 2021 to advise on the development of the draft framework and in April 2022 following public consultation to endorse or provide strategic feedback on the final draft framework. Meetings will be for approximately 2 hours.

In the context of COVID-19 and the location of members, it is expected all meetings will be via Microsoft Teams or video/tele-conferencing.

Additional meetings may be added, if required.

## 7. Remuneration

Remuneration will be in accordance with the Cabinet Fees Policy.

A day remuneration rate will be applicable for all EAG members, except for those attending in their capacity as a public sector employee where their membership of the EAG is undertaken during their ordinary working hours.

Actual and reasonable travel and other expenses incurred in the performance of the role will be paid in accordance with the Commission's Travel and Expenses Policy: all travel must be approved before it is booked; a claim for reimbursement must be submitted, together with valid GST receipts / invoices, within 10 working days of the completion of your business travel.

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