

Research Team
Social Policy Research Centre
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As peer support delivery continues in the context of full NDIS and ILC roll-out, it is particularly important to reach sometimes marginalised and further disadvantaged people and communities such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background, people living in boarding houses and people with contact with the criminal justice system, and that further strategies and resources are developed to assist organisations to achieve this.

This organisational capacity building project, led by ANZSOG in collaboration with SPRC, builds on the research and service development that have been undertaken in this area thus far.

It will review current practice amongst organisations delivering peer support (completed), develop a suite of capacity building resources, and formulate good practice guidelines to assist the new disability funding and service environment to meet increasing peer support needs. It is envisaged that the research and materials developed in this project will be of use both in contributing to the evidence base informing how ILC might invest in delivering peer support in the future, and in contributing to publicly available tools and resources for organisations that deliver peer support to people with disability and their families into the future.

1.2 Project aims and summary

As stated in the Project Plan (Fisher, Davy and Purcal 2017), the overall aims of this project are to:

1. Increase the organisational capacity of peer support providers to implement good-practice peer support programs
2. Develop a suite of capacity building resources including training, tools and other materials that will assist providers to implement peer support programs
3. Develop good practice guidelines on implementing peer support that address issues such as resourcing, recruitment, outreach to marginalised people and groups, capacity training, monitoring, and evaluating.

The overall project is conducted between September 2017 and May 2019 (extended from November 2018) and comprises 5 key stages:

Stage 1A: Review of current good practice in peer support delivery

Stage 1B: Research and literature review of international evidence and best practice in peer support programs

Stage 2: Development of good practice materials for capacity building

Stage 3: Delivery of pilot organisational capacity building training and resources

The SPRC role in this project is concentrated on Stage 1A and Stage 4, however the SPRC will continue to provide advice in the other stages. SPRC has completed Stage 1A and the report is available here: (<https://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/research/projects/peer-support-practice-review/>).

SPRC's next role, focusing on Stage 4, is to observe and evaluate the capacity building training and resources developed by ANZSOG researchers to support the delivery of peer support programs. This research plan outlines the project design and methods.

3 Project management

3.1 Governance

This project is funded by the NDIA and managed by the NDIA's Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) Branch. The project is led by ANZSOG, with SPRC playing a key role in Stage 1A and 4, and a supporting role in the other stages.

3.2 Communication strategy

The SPRC research team will participate in a mix of teleconference and face to face meetings with ANZSOG (every 3-4 weeks, or as needed) and NDIA (as needed) throughout the life span of the project. All project outputs and deliverables will be presented in draft to the NDIA, ANZSOG, and SPRC's project advisors to receive comment, make amendments, and a final version agreed.

3.3 Project team

The project team members at ANZSOG, SPRC, and SPRC partners are listed in the table below.

ANZSOG	
Project lead	George Argyrous
Literature review and evaluation	Greet Peersman
Project support, literature review and evaluation	Keryn Hassall
Project support, literature review and evaluation	Alice MacFarlan
Evaluation	Patricia Rogers

4 References

Davy, L., Fisher, K. R., Wehbe, A. (2018). Peer support practice review: Final report of Stage 1A findings (SPRC Report 4/2018). Sydney: Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW Sydney.
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Fisher, K., Davy, L., Purcal, C. (2017). Peer support practice review. (Project research plan). Sydney: Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW Sydney.