

Joint Statement from system reform Leadership Peaks: the Indigenous Australian Lived Experience Centre, the National Mental Health Consumer Alliance, Mental Health Carers Australia and Community Mental Health Australia



We welcome the Government's prompt release of the Productivity Commission's Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement Review Final Report.

We support the findings that the mental health and suicide prevention system in Australia needs to be improved. The four peaks are well-placed to work closely with all governments to lead this reform together.

Australia's mental health system has always been designed and delivered by clinical services, but Australia's mental health reform has always been driven by those with lived experience — people who transformed their mental health challenges and experiences of treatment into purpose, and demanded systems built on dignity, choice, and human rights.

The establishment of the national lived experience peaks for mental health consumers and for families, carers and kin, together with the Indigenous Australian Lived Experience Centre, are milestones which have been decades in the making, and we commend the Government for making it a reality.

This moment is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in community-connected, rights-affirming psychosocial supports through the holistic lens of Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) and finally deliver on both the Burdekin and Ways Forward Reports.

As a leadership collective shaping policy direction, governance and accountability, we bring unique pillars of reform. The Indigenous Australian Lived Experience Centre, the National Mental Health Consumer Alliance and Mental Health Carers Australia provide Lived Experience leadership across diverse cohorts. We look forward to working with Gayaa Dhuwi to provide additional cultural and structural leadership on Social and Emotional and Wellbeing. Community Mental Health Australia is the leading voice for the community managed mental health sector. System transformation requires integration of these three leadership domains working in partnership.

Crucially, the Final Report centre the three Lived Experience Peaks in governance leadership positions to co-produce the policy architecture that will deliver this transformation, ensuring accountability and transparency.

All levels of Australian governments must commit to the implementation of Lived Experience and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership through the peak bodies. This transfer of power is the single most important commitment. Without it, system transformation will fail.

We call for the Australian Government to commit to:

1. **Lived Experience Leadership** through the three national Lived Experience Peaks (IALEC, the Alliance and MHCA) at all levels.
2. **Transformational Change Investment** to break the cycle of roundtables, reviews and reports.
3. **Accountability and Transparency** embedded in both the reporting of Agreement progress and in the new policy and system architecture.

Together, the national leadership peaks are leading the next decade of reform. The groundwork has been done, the next phase is implementation led by lived experience, cultural authority and community.