

## Advancing and Celebrating Peer Support Part 2

### Envisioning A Future for Peer Support Workforce Development 2016 - 2021

Mental Health and Addictions Research Symposium  
29 June 2016

#### **Objective:**


*To create an Action Plan for the Peer Potential project:  
a workforce development initiative for peer support in the  
Counties Manukau Health region.*

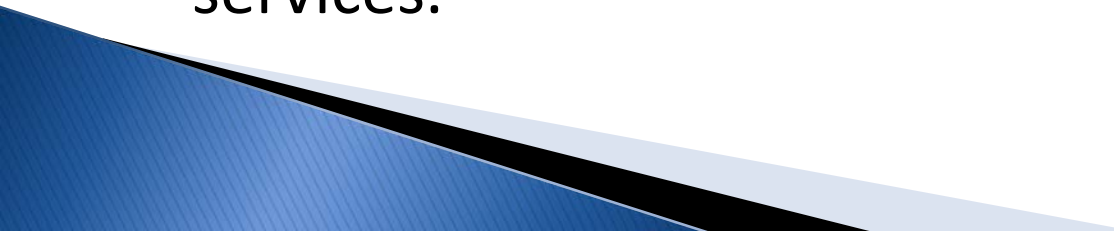
# Background

- ▶ The purpose of this project was to establish a Strategic Plan for *Advance Peer Potential* which is a workforce development initiative for Peer Support in Counties Manukau.
- ▶ The Strategic Plan will provide a mechanism for articulating and consulting on a shared vision for the *Advance Peer Potential* project and the key steps to working towards that vision.
- ▶ There currently is no strategic plan for the mental health and addictions peer support workforce, although there have previously been CHAMP funded development workshops and a symposium session about the important components of the strategic plan.

# Executive Summary

- ▶ To lay the foundation for the further development and growth of mental health and addiction peer support funded by CM Health
- ▶ Peer support is any ‘organised’ peer support provided by and for people with similar conditions, problems or experiences where they share their lived experience for the benefit of others. Peer support is an emerging occupational group.

- ▶ In the mid 2000s CMDHB mental health leadership introduced an implementation strategy for the training and development of peer support workers to provide support from within MH&A services. There are now 60+ funded fte peer support roles across the Provider Arm and NGO services. New roles are emerging in Primary Care.
  - ▶ Since the initial establishment planning and development there has been little workforce development for this group.
  - ▶ Apart from on-going Peer Employment Training and sporadic opportunities for Advanced and one-off training there has been no cohesive sector-wide development.
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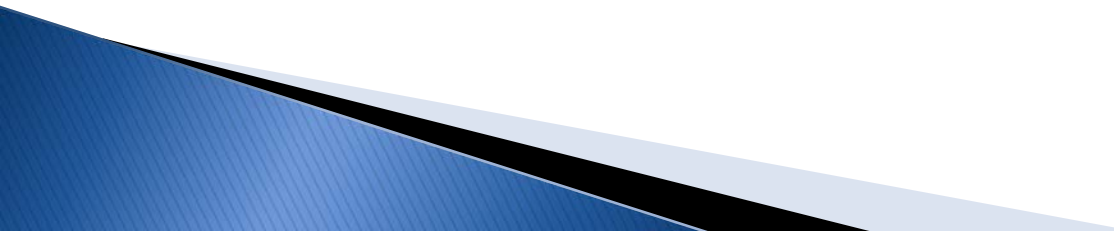
- ▶ Despite anecdotal evidence of high satisfaction with peer support and positive outcomes for people there has also been little in the way of evaluation, most has occurred in the AOD sector and with one team at The Cottage CMHC (2010).
  - ▶ Peer Support is reputed to be the fastest growing occupation in mental health and addiction services in developed countries.
  - ▶ The government's current mental health and addiction action plan recognises this and highlights the need for expanded peer support training and peer support services.
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# Consultation

- ▶ A contractor worked with the cross sector Steering Group to develop this strategy.
  - 15 interviewees
  - 187 completed online survey responses
  - Workshops and focus groups
  - Follow up online surveys
- ▶ CM Health is identified as a world leader in the development of funded peer support roles but there is a risk that this innovation could plateau without further development.

# Objectives of this Strategic Plan for 2016 – 2021:

## *Priorities:*

1. Establish a peer support governance group
  2. Develop peer support workforce development and career pathways
  3. Grow and diversify funded peer support worker positions
  4. Promote respect and equity for peer support workers
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# Peer support and the 'Whole of Systems' Agenda: What's the future?

- ▶ What role will peer support play in integrated primary and community teams?
  - ▶ Peer support and co-existing physical / mental health / addiction issues?
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