



## **Guide to filling in a Consumer Perspective Supervision (CPS) Hybrid Course 2024 Expression of interest (EOI) application form**

It is important to read this document as it provides guidance on how to complete the EOI application for the Consumer Perspective Supervision (CPS) Hybrid Course.

Places in the CPS course are sponsored (funded) by the Department of Health, Victoria. The CPS course often receives more applications than there are places available, so the process is competitive. Understanding the EOI questions and course requirements will assist you to submit an application that meets the eligibility criteria and demonstrates your suitability for a funded position in the course.

Answers are scored by the CPS Course EOI Review Panel. Over several rounds of CPS training, the CPS Course EOI Review Panel have noted several issues that may affect the score given to a person who has applied for the course. The following information should help you to avoid these issues.

## How to give your application the best chance of success:

### 1. Double check your eligibility for the CPS Course

- Before submitting your EOI, make sure you meet the eligibility criteria.
- To be eligible you must be currently (or soon to commence) working in a consumer/peer/lived/living experience role within a *Victorian state funded Mental Health service or program*.
  - If you work in a national organisation based in Victoria, or interstate, or in an organisation in a peer role that is not mental health specific you need to ensure that the role is funded by a Victorian state funded Mental Health service or program (and not federally funded, or funded by another state, territory, service or program).

### 2. Type, rather than handwrite, your EOI application

- A typed application is often easier to read than a handwritten application.
- It is best to submit an application by typing your answers into the EOI form using a computer (or mobile phone if you don't have a computer available).
- Please contact Sandy Watson, CPS Course Coordinator, if you have any barriers to submitting a typed application (e.g., you are away and don't have access to a computer to type the application, what should you do?)

### **3. Keep your application clear and concise**

- An EOI application for the Consumer Perspective Supervision course needs to be succinct and to the point.
- A maximum 150 - 200 words per answer to each question is recommended.
- Avoid including content that isn't relevant to the question being asked.

### **4. Make sure you answer all the EOI questions**

- Please check that all questions are answered before submitting the EOI.
- Ensure that the whole EOI form has been sent (sometimes we receive blank forms, or forms with pages missing).
- If an incomplete EOI is received, we will try to get in touch with the person and ask them to submit their EOI again by the due date.

### **5. Demonstrate that you understand what Consumer Perspective Supervision is (and is not)**

- Having some understanding of the concepts of 'consumer perspective', and 'discipline specific supervision' as they apply to the mental health consumer workforce, and your educational development needs, is important for a successful application for a funded place in the course.
- More information is provided later in this document that will assist you with questions relating to key concepts in the EOI application form.

## 6. Submit your EOI by the closing date.

- It is important to get the EOI in by the due date and time. Given there are often large numbers of EOI applicants, it is unlikely that late applications will be processed and reviewed.
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### Answering the EOI Questions.

This section provides some guidance to answering the EOI questions clearly, addressing common errors that have occurred in past EOI applications.

#### **Please explain, in your own words, the concept/meaning of ‘consumer perspective’ (Q.2)**

- Make sure your response shows that you understand that ‘consumer perspective’ is not the same as ‘lived experience’.
  - Although there is some overlap, these concepts have different meanings. Consumer perspective is a broader concept with a wider scope in terms of, for example: consumer knowledge, collective consumer movement history, consumer theory & critique, intersectionality, consumer approaches, advocacy and resources, consumer rights, diversity of perspectives. Consumer perspective exists and flourishes outside of the mental health system and is not confined to people who use mental health services, or who work within them.

- Consumer perspective is also a way of describing the overarching discipline that consumer and peer Lived and Living Experience (LLEx) workers work within, irrespective of their roles, seniority or position titles.
- For links to a range of resources that explain the concept of ‘consumer perspective’ see relevant resources (p. 5 - at the end of this document).

### **Please outline your background and experience in consumer perspective work. How do you apply consumer perspective in your practice? (Q.3)**

- Providing sufficient information when answering these questions helps to demonstrate your background and experience.
  - Information that helps to demonstrate your experience in consumer perspective work includes how long you have been working in consumer perspective work, what experience you have gained, what you do in your role, and what training you have completed relevant to the work.
- Make sure you answer both parts of this question by 1. describing your background and experience in consumer perspective work, and 2. how you apply consumer perspective in practice. (Some people write that they provide a consumer perspective without writing about what this means in their practice or giving any brief examples).

**Please explain, in your own words, what is meant by the term ‘discipline specific supervision’ as it applies to the consumer/peer/lived/living experience workforce (Q.4)**

- Make sure that your explanation of discipline specific supervision is relevant to the consumer/peer/lived/living experience workforce.
  - Consumer Perspective Supervision is a new form of discipline specific supervision, in its own right, with its own Framework.
  - Generic descriptions of supervision are not very relevant as they don’t speak to the values and principles that are embedded in discipline specific supervision as it applies to the consumer/peer/lived/living experience workforce. You may like to refer to: Consumer Perspective Supervision. A Framework for supporting the consumer workforce, 2018, pp. 7-10, which provides this information. (A link to the CPS Framework is provided in relevant resources on page 5 of this document.)
- Some other important information to consider in answering this question:
  - Discipline specific supervision is *in the discipline of consumer perspective*, that is it covers all consumer workforce roles. This means that a CPS supervisor providing discipline specific supervision has the capacity to provide supervision to any mental health consumer/peer lived/living experience worker, because these roles are in *the discipline of consumer perspective*. CPS supervision is guided by shared values and principles that apply to all consumer workforce roles.
  - Seniority is not necessarily a requirement for the provision of discipline specific supervision in this context, because the supervisor and supervisee are equals in the

CPS supervision relationship. Issues of power and power imbalances, if they exist, are openly addressed within CPS.

- CPS supervision has no oversight or management component and is therefore separate to line management roles fulfilled by consumer/peer/lived/living experience workers in senior roles.
- Discipline specific supervision, in the context of the consumer/peer/lived/living experience workforce, is independent of line management and other forms of supervision such as clinical supervision.
- Discipline specific supervision is also independent of LLEW (Lived/Living Experience Workforce) management, co-ordination or oversight/task supervision roles (e.g., Consumer Co-ordinator or Peer Team Leader roles that have elements of oversight or management of individual consumer/peer/lived/living experience workers).

**Please outline what discipline specific supervision you are currently providing to the consumer/peer/lived/living experience workforce within a Victorian state funded mental health service or program (not to be confused with Line Management Supervision as these are separate roles). Please be specific. (Q. 5)**

**Please outline how providing discipline specific supervision (CPS) is a requirement of your current role, or in a new role within a Victorian state funded mental health service or program that you are soon starting. Please be specific. (Q.5)**

**Please outline how you are building your capacity to provide CPS to this workforce within a Victorian funded mental health service or program in the near future. Please be specific. (Q.5)**

*Applicants receive a higher score if they can demonstrate that they are already providing discipline specific supervision (CPS), are about to provide CPS, or are building capacity to provide CPS in the near future. This recognises that these applicants have a higher need for the CPS training. (Note that there are 3 different options for answering Question 5.)*

- Be specific about the discipline specific supervision that you are providing, or are about to provide (e.g., details about the nature of the supervision being {or about to be} provided).



- CPS is independent of line management or similar consumer workforce roles, where there is oversight of individual consumer/peer/lived/living experience workers and their practices, so you need to show that the CPS you are (or will be) providing is independent of your line management or co-ordination role (e.g., that you provide (or will provide) supervision to another team that you are not managing or co-ordinating).
  - The Consumer Perspective Supervision Framework (2018) provides information about this on pages 10 and 11. (A web link is provided on page 5, at the end of this document.)
- A strong response to these questions may also include the following, if relevant:
  - Specific details about how many people you are supervising, how long you have been supervising, and your approach to providing discipline specific supervision (CPS).
  - Arrangements within your organisation to ensure that you provide (or will be providing) supervision to consumer/peer/lived/living experience workers with whom you don't have a line management or co-ordination/oversight relationship.
  - Details of a new job/position/role where you will soon be providing CPS (e.g., when it starts, the nature of the supervision to be provided, and in which Victorian funded mental health service or program this will be).
  - Details about how you are building capacity to provide CPS in the near future. (e.g., you have been advised by your workplace that you can't provide CPS unless you complete this course - that if you complete the CPS course opportunities to provide CPS will become available in your workplace).

## Relevant resources:

- *Consumer Perspective Supervision. A framework for supporting the consumer workforce* (2018) explains concepts outlined in this EOI (e.g., ‘consumer perspective’, ‘discipline-specific supervision’). The CPS Framework can be found on the inside out Consumer Perspective Supervision Course webpage (link below).
- Other resources that help to explain key concepts (e.g., ‘consumer perspective’, ‘discipline-specific supervision’) can also be found on the inside out Consumer Perspective Supervision Course webpage (link below).

<https://insideoutconversations.com.au/consumer-perspective-supervision-training-2024/>

## **We hope this guidance document assists with filling in the Expression of Interest: Consumer Perspective Supervision (Hybrid) Course 2024, form.**

If a person has any further questions about their EOI application and/or the process, please email the CPS Course Coordinator:

[sandy@insideoutconversations.com.au](mailto:sandy@insideoutconversations.com.au)

If a person has any feedback or concerns that they would like to raise about the Consumer Perspective Supervision EOI process, please email the Lived Experience Branch, Mental Health and Wellbeing Division, Department of Health, Victoria:

[livedexperienceworkforce@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:livedexperienceworkforce@dhhs.vic.gov.au)

Larger print versions (like this) of all the Expression of Interest documents are available on inside out & associates Consumer Perspective Supervision Course webpage:

<https://insideoutconversations.com.au/consumer-perspective-supervision-training-2024/>