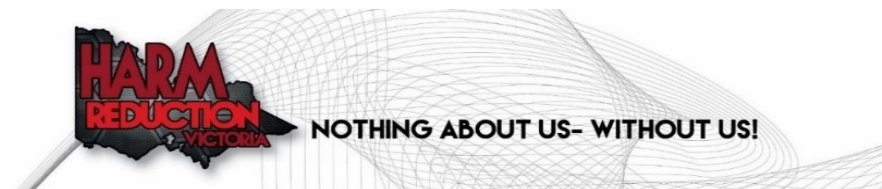


LIVING EXPERIENCE PEER WORKFORCE



NEXUS
Tuesday 14th June

Harm Reduction Peer Workforce



The Harm Reduction Peer Workforce

(living experience peer workforce)

Who are Harm Reduction Peer Workers?

Definition:

Harm Reduction Peer Workers (HRPWs) are people with living experience of drug use and overdose risk who are employed in harm reduction roles which promote the health and wellbeing of people who use drugs.

What do Harm Reduction Peer Workers do & Why are they important?

- Harm reduction peer work encompasses many duties including providing individual support, group support, education, health promotion, overdose response, outreach, peer navigation, individual and systemic advocacy, and peer to peer support.
- Harm Reduction Peer Workers are hired to do this work because of their live connection to a criminalised community, for their local knowledge of community drug use and most importantly for **their acceptance by that community**

**“Someone actively involved in that community”*

These positions benefit being held by peers currently affected by overdose risk and connected with this community.

“[People Who Use Drugs] (PWUD) have insights and expertise that can help inform the planning, delivery and review of harm reduction and HIV services. When we involve PWUD in the design and delivery of services, our work becomes more relevant, targeted and accessible... Employing PWUD sends out a clear message that they are valued partners and are welcome at all levels of service delivery. It also has a very practical set of benefits, helping services to better understand the needs and lived experience of PWUD”.

- International HIV/AIDS Alliance (2015). Good practice guide for employing people who use drugs.
- **1st HRPW Consultation (2019)**– HRPW quote

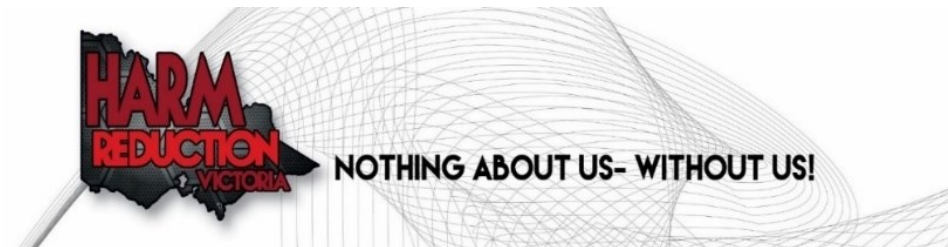
RHDUTPLN

Reducing Harmful Drug Use Through Peer Led Networks

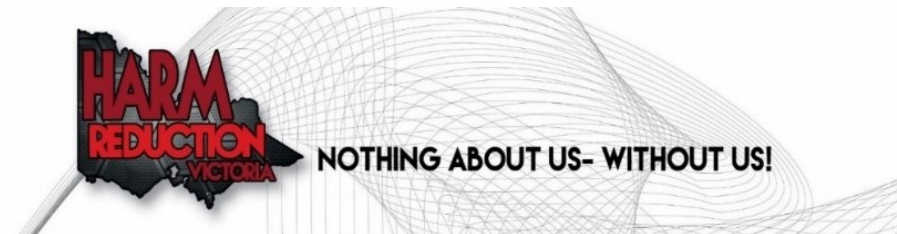
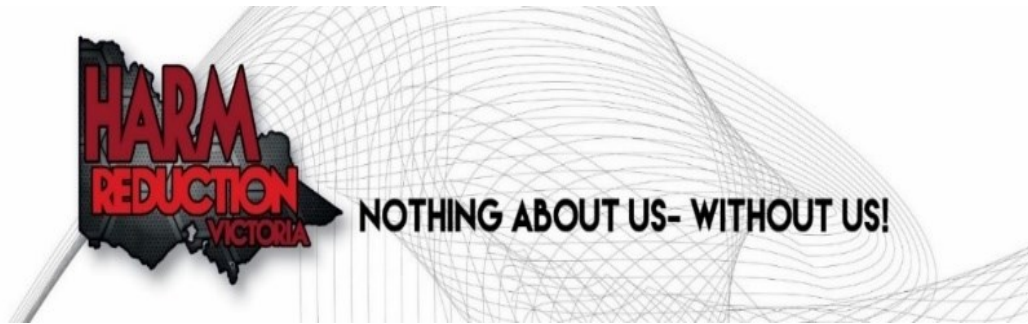
In 2017, the Reducing Drug Harm Use Through Peer Led Networks (RHDUTPLN) initiative was funded by DHHS.

6 Health Organisations were involved and developed peer-led projects to address overdose and other harms associated with illicit drug use.

Harm Reduction Victoria (HRVic) and the Association of Participating Service Users (APSU) were funded to provide support to the RHDUTPLN project, including holding regular peer support meetings for peer workers employed through this program.



PARTNERSHIP

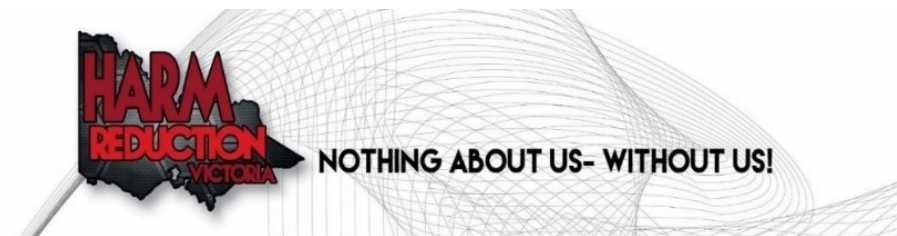


FUSE INITIATIVES

WHY?

FUSE DEFINITIONS

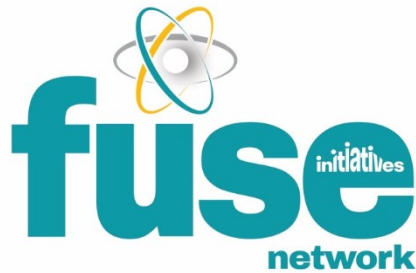
- To join or blend to form a single entity, to make one
- A fuse is used to ignite something, to start, the beginning of something
 - A safety device to protect



FUSE INITIATIVES

Fuse Initiatives was funded in 2021 to engage in workforce development for the harm reduction peer workforce.

Fuse Initiatives has 3 priorities:



- Provide supervision and support interventions to HRPWs
- Monthly peer meetings (equivalent to the COP)



- Development and delivery of training to increase capacity and capability of HRPWs



- Development and delivery of organizational readiness training for organizations who would like to employ HRPWs

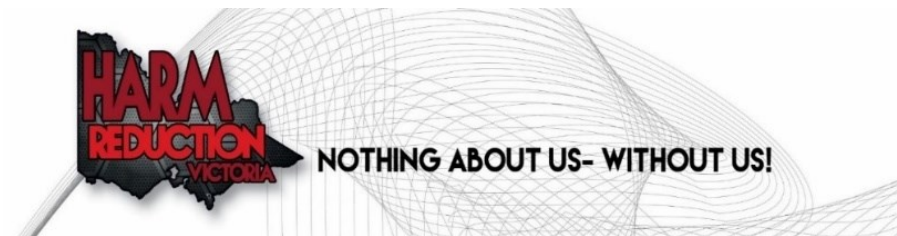


NOTHING ABOUT US- WITHOUT US!

Objectives

- Develop & offer the best supports to all harm reduction peer workers
- Provide tailored training, upskilling and professional development packages to meet the specific needs of the living experience workforce
 - Encourage ADD & Harm Reduction sector to invest in the living experience workforce
 - Work with organisations make sure their policies and procedures are fair and non-discriminatory,
 - Support organisations to become champions of harm reduction
 - Encourage safe workplace cultures
- Meaningful involvement, Keep consulting with the living experience workforce on everything to do with them

Peer workforce initiatives & the future

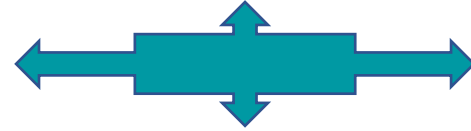


Peer workforce initiatives & the future

- Our Future
 - Peer workforce cross sector plan resulted
- Range of community and peer organisations part of a coordinated approach to build, train and support a peer workforce able to respond to Mental Health Royal Commission recommendations

FUSE INITIATIVES ADVISORY GROUP

ADVISE & GUIDE ON A STRATEGIC LEVEL



**FUSE PARTNERSHIP (HRVic & APSU), 2 MANAGERS (ORGS THAT HIRE PEERS)
& 3 HRPW**

MEET 2X PER YEAR – UNLESS MORE MEETINGS ARE REQUIRED
TOR DEVELOPED

DOCUMENT SENT TO ALL INITIATIVE PARTNERS QUARTERLY

Thank you

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