

We are seeking expressions of interest for the

BEING – Mental Health Consumers Rural & Remote Communities Committee

Applications now open. This is a paid opportunity.

To be considered you must identify as:

- Having lived / living experience of mental health issues
- Reside in a rural or remote area of New South Wales based on the [Department of Health Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Area \(RRMA\) classifications](#) (Urban centre populations of 5,001 to 99,999 are considered rural, and 5,000 or less are considered remote)

Who are we?

BEING – Mental Health Consumers is the independent, state-wide, peak organisation representing the views, perspectives and experiences of people who live with mental health issues in NSW.

The core work of BEING – Mental Health Consumers is to collaborate with mental health consumers across NSW to achieve and support systemic change. We do this through consumer consultation and co-design, as well as collaborative and responsive policy advocacy work. This includes writing submissions, participating in committees, and providing input and advice to government and other organisations working in the mental health sector.

BEING – Mental Health Consumers has a strong focus on human rights and advocates for the rights of people living with mental health issues and suicidal thoughts to live and participate in the communities they choose. We are a value-based organisation whose work is underpinned by recovery-oriented and trauma-informed principles including respect, social justice, transparency, and a belief that recovery is possible for every individual.

Purpose of the BEING – Mental Health Consumers Rural & Remote Communities Committee

BEING – Mental Health Consumers recognises the importance of including consumer voices in the design and development of the services we operate and view our members as intrinsic to the advocacy work we undertake in influencing policy and services design for people living with mental health issues.

We invite expressions of interest from people with lived experience of mental health issues who are residents of rural and remote areas of NSW to participate in a new BEING – Mental Health Consumers Rural and Remote Communities Committee focused on mental health issues and challenges specifically affecting these communities.

This newly established committee will share community perspectives and provide input to assist us with our broader policy and advocacy work as well as other programs, some of which include:

- BEING Leadership Academy
- BEING Lived Experience Network
- BEING Suicide Support and Awareness Program

Payment

Payment for attendance will be at a rate of \$110 for half-day meetings and \$220 for full-day meetings. As most meetings will be around two hours in duration, a half-day fee will be paid to cover costs for reading of papers and attendance.

Meetings

The BEING – Mental Health Consumers Rural & Remote Communities Committee will meet once per month. The first meeting will be determined after the committee has been selected.

Due to COVID-19 and the need to work remotely at present, members of the committee will be required to have a computer/laptop and reliable internet connection.

Please note that some meetings may be converted to working group meetings as per the needs of the organisation.

Selection criteria and eligibility

The BEING – Mental Health Consumers Rural & Remote Communities Committee is open to people who live with mental health issues (consumers).

Only applicants currently residing in a rural (RRMA R1, R2 or R3) location or remote (RRMA Rem1 or Rem2) location in New South Wales will be considered for this committee. Urban centre populations of 5,001 to 99,999 are considered rural, and 5,000 or less are considered remote. ** Not sure if you qualify as residing in a rural or remote area? Please get in touch at info@being.org.au*

BEING – Mental Health Consumers Inc. welcomes applications from people from diverse backgrounds and encourages Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, LGBTIQ+, people with disability, and people from culturally diverse backgrounds to apply for this role.

Previous experience participating in committee work is desirable though not essential.

Application process

If you would like to apply for a position on the BEING – Mental Health Consumers Rural & Remote Communities Committee, please provide your expression of interest by email or word document and be sure to include the following information:

- Your name, suburb, postal code, email and phone contact details
- Why you would like to be involved in the BEING – Mental Health Consumers Rural & Remote Communities Committee
- Which mental health issues and challenges you identify as most significantly affecting these communities
- Any previous experience of individual and systemic advocacy committee work, knowledge of mental health policy or previous experience of publicly sharing your story (not essential)
- A brief summary of your lived experience of mental health issues

Please submit your expression of interest to info@being.org.au.