

Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) Member Information Guide

About the Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG)

The Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) is a key part of the [Northern Territory Homelessness Strategy 2025–2030](#) to make sure lived experience voices help shape how the Strategy is put into action.

The LEAG is made up of people from across the Northern Territory who have experienced homelessness. A person is experiencing homelessness when they do not have a safe, stable or suitable place to live. This can include staying somewhere temporary, overcrowded or unsafe, or living in a place where they do not have control over their own space.

LEAG members use their lived expertise to:

- Share ideas, experiences, and advice
- Influence how homelessness services, programs, and policies are developed
- Ensure the voices of people with lived experience are heard in government decision-making

Who the LEAG Advises

The LEAG is an **advisory group**, not a decision-making body.

The LEAG provides advice to the **Strategic Advisory Group (SAG)**, which includes:

- Department of Children and Families (DCF) – *Lead*
- Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet (DCMC)
- Department of Corrections (DoC)
- NT Health
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development (DHLGCD)
- NT Police (NTPOL)
- Department of Education and Training (DET)
- Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) and related NGOs

How This Engagement Makes a Difference

As a LEAG Member, you will:

- Use your lived experience to inform policy and service design
- Help improve homelessness responses across the NT
- Contribute to decisions grounded in real-life experience

LEAG Guiding Principles

- The LEAG is guided by the understanding that homelessness doesn't happen on its own; it's often connected to violence, unfair systems, and the ongoing impacts of colonisation.
- Many people become homeless because they weren't kept safe or supported when they needed it.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been especially affected and continue to face extra barriers.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and self-determination are key to real change.
- The LEAG values lived experience, and makes sure people's dignity, wellbeing, and voices are always at the centre of what we do.

Length of commitment

- We are asking LEAG members to commit to **a minimum of 12 months**
- At the end of the 12 months:
 - You may choose to nominate again
 - Membership may be reviewed to maintain diversity and balance
- Membership may also be reviewed if numbers drop too low
- Members may choose to step down or take time away from the LEAG at any point if their circumstances change.

Provide Advice

- Give feedback to the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG)
- Help guide implementation of the NT Homelessness Strategy

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- Share ideas to improve services, programs, and policies
 - Strengthen lived experience voices in government

Support Community Voices

- Share information with community members
- Listen to community experiences and concerns
- Bring those voices and ideas back to LEAG

Work With Others

- Work respectfully with other LEAG members and SAG
- Help create a safe, inclusive, and supportive group environment

What We Will Provide

LEAG meetings are run in a **trauma-informed, culturally safe, and inclusive way**. LEAG members are supported to take part in ways that work for them. We understand that everyone's needs are different.

Support to Participate

- Clear information before meetings
- Help understanding documents or discussions
- Flexibility in how you participate
- Choice to share in writing instead of speaking
- Support to make a wellbeing plan for participation
- Translators and interpreters if required
- Different ways of sharing are respected

Wellbeing Support

- You can step back or take a break if discussions are difficult
- Clear group agreements to support safety and respect
- Cultural knowledge and lived experience are valued
- Quiet, sensory friendly spaces to go to when participating in person

- Dedicated LEAG workers to support your participation, including follow-ups after difficult conversations

Skill and knowledge building

- Receive training to support your work on the LEAG
- Learn how government's make decisions and implement services
- Learn how to use your lived experience to provide advice and recommendations to government
- Mentorship and peer support opportunities
- Learn and practice governance skills in a supported environment
- Work with others to develop reports and recommendations to improve homelessness systems in the NT
- Participate in additional opportunities to use your lived expertise

Who We're Looking For

What You'll Bring:

- personal lived experience of homelessness
- willingness to share your experience to improve systems
- availability to attend meetings and actively contribute to discussions
- Respect and a commitment to inclusion
- Strong listening skills
- Openness to different views and ideas
- Protecting people's privacy and trust by maintaining confidentiality
- A genuine passion for improving the homelessness system

Diversity and Representation

LEAG will have at least **six members** and aims to include people from diverse backgrounds, including:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- People with experience of domestic, family, and sexual violence
- Young people
- LGBTQIA+SB people

- People from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds
- People with disability
- People from remote and regional areas

This diversity is important because homelessness affects people differently.

Time Commitment and Payment

Meetings

- Online meetings: approximately **once every 2 months (2 hours)**
- In-person meetings: **1–2 per year**
 - Travel and accommodation are organised and paid for by YWCA and Anglicare NT

Recognition Payment

- \$100 per hour – LEAG member meetings
- \$50 per hour – Participation in training or development

We will work with each LEAG member to figure out their preferred method of payment, for example through digital or physical gift cards.

Selection Process

LEAG members are selected through a **fair and transparent process**.

Selection process:

1. Submit an [expression of interest](#) online or over the phone
2. A LEAG worker will call you to have a yarn over the phone, asking some more questions and learning more about you
3. Expressions of interest will close 21 August 2026
4. A panel will select 1-2 LEAG members from each of the 6 regions of NT
5. Offers will be made to those selected to join the LEAG
6. All applicants will be contacted with an outcome, even if they are not asked to join the LEAG

Selection aims to:

- Include people with lived experience of homelessness

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- Reflect diversity across the NT
 - Make sure the group has a mix of perspectives, experiences, and strengths

We value every expression of interest and will consider each one carefully. Opportunities will be offered based on fit and available places.

Privacy and Confidentiality

LEAG members may hear or share sensitive information.

You are expected to:

- Respect other people's privacy
- Not share personal stories outside the group without permission
- Keep meeting discussions confidential unless told otherwise

Information shared with the LEAG is handled carefully and used only to help improve homelessness policy and services.

We promise to:

- Always get your written consent before sharing your name, images, words or ideas outside of the LEAG meetings
- Store any records or personal information in a secure way to ensure your privacy
- Respect your right to withdraw your consent at any time for any reason

Support is available if you have concerns about privacy or information sharing.

LEAG Key Contacts

YWCA and Anglicare NT are partnering to facilitate and support the Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG). Below are some key contacts from the team:

For Greater Darwin, Top End, Big Rivers: **For Central Australia, Barkly, East Arnhem:**

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