



CHC43515 Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work

This [qualification](#) reflects the role of workers who have mental health lived experience as either a consumer or carer and who work in mental health services in roles that support consumer peers or carer peers. Workers are employed in the mental health sector in government, public, private or community managed services.

Duration

The duration of this full-time course is 12 months, including 40 hours of virtual classrooms and supported self-paced learning and assessments. Learners should allow for 15-20 hours of study per week. Time to complete this course may vary depending on individual experience and support needs.

Course Delivery

- Introduction webinar to meet the trainer and learn about what to expect from the course (1 hour)
- 2 x 2-hour webinars for each module of the qualification (10 modules – 40 hours in total)
- Additional self-paced WHS & Health Body Systems modules (no webinar associated with these)
- Content for each module will be accessed through MHCC's online learning system, Canvas
- Assessments for each module are submitted to Canvas on a predetermined assessment schedule
- You will be required to undertake a variety of assessments, and 120 hours of workplace activities

Units of Competency

Core Units	
CHCDIV001	Work with diverse people
CHCMHS007	Work effectively in trauma informed care
CHCMHS008	Promote and facilitate self-advocacy
CHCMHS011	Assess and promote social, emotional and physical wellbeing
CHCPWK001	Apply peer work practices in the mental health sector
CHCPWK002	Contribute to the continuous improvement of mental health services for consumers and carers
CHCPWK003	Apply lived experience in mental health peer work
HLTWHS001	Participate in workplace health and safety
Specialisation Elective	unit choice
CHCPWK004	Work effectively in consumer mental health peer work - Elective Consumer Specialisation
CHCPWK005	Work effectively with carers mental health peer work - Elective Carer Specialisation
Elective Units	
CHCCCS023	Support independence and wellbeing
CHCPRP003	Reflect on and improve own professional practice
CHCLEG001	Work legally and ethically
HLTWHS006	Manage personal stressors in the work environment
CHCCCS003	Increase the safety of individuals at risk of suicide
HLTAAP001	Recognise healthy body systems

Fees

Subsidised fees	Non-subsidised fees Member	Non-Member
First qualification \$1,990.00	Full qualification fee \$5,000.00	Full qualification fee \$5,500.00
Second qualification \$2,320.00	Full recognition pathway \$4,200.00	Full recognition pathway \$4,700.00
Traineeship \$0	Partial qualification from \$3,000.00	Partial qualification from \$3,500.00
Concession \$240		
Fee exemption \$0.00		

Smart and Skilled Funding

MHCC provides subsidised training places through the NSW Government's Smart and Skilled program funded by the Department of Education through Training Services NSW.

Subsidised fees or fee exemptions are offered to learners in the CHC43315 Certificate IV in Mental Health and CHC43515 Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work.

Depending on your previous qualifications and experience you may qualify for subsidised fees or fee exemptions through the Smart and Skilled program funded by the Department of Education through Training Services NSW.

Smart and Skilled is a NSW Government program that offers subsidised training for courses on the NSW Skills List, which identifies industry areas that need more qualified workers. It is offered through the NSW Vocational Education and Training (VET) system to help people find a job and advance their careers. For information on eligibility and conditions for Smart and Skilled training [go here](#).

Scholarship Places

Scholarships provide the opportunity for people currently employed as a peer support worker in the mental health and community sector to gain a formal qualification in CHC43515 Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work.

The scholarships aim to develop the peer workforce to meet the evolving needs of the mental health sector.

If you are currently employed as a peer worker and living or working in NSW, you may be eligible for a funded scholarship place in one of our standard 12-month Mental Health Peer Work courses.

See [here](#) for more information.

Learning Outcomes

Through a mixture of theory, practical course work and discussions with other Peer Workers, you will learn:

- How to support people experiencing mental health challenges
- Peer Work practices
- Safe Storytelling and ways of sharing your lived and living experience
- Recovery-oriented and trauma informed approaches
- How to empower people through the recovery model
- Ways to promote self-advocacy
- How to understand and respond to suicide
- Ways to empower people through the recovery model
- How to communicate effectively and work collaboratively with consumers, families and other services

Course Outcomes

Gain practical experience and develop specialist skills that give you an advantage in the job market.

- A nationally accredited qualification at Certificate IV level
- 120 hours of work placement in the industry
- The skills to contribute to the wellbeing and recovery of a diverse range of people
- A sound understanding of the legal and ethical requirements in Mental Health Peer Work
- Strong pathways to continued studies to enhance your career

Career Pathways

Our graduates go on to work in roles such as:

- Mental Health Peer Worker (Consumer or Carer)
- Peer Worker (Alcohol and Other Drugs, Suicide Prevention)
- Peer Recovery Coach
- Peer Specialist
- Peer Advocate
- Peer Navigator

Is This Course Right For You?

There are no formal entry requirements for this course from the training package; however, learners are required to undertake a Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) test prior entry. See below for eligibility and course recommendations.

Is This Course Right For You?

Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or a holder of a permanent residence visa, or a migrant, refugee or asylum seeker holding a temporary or bridging visa providing work and/or study rights• no longer be in school, in accordance with the relevant State's school leaving requirements• learners at the time of application that are not in receipt of another Commonwealth or State/Territory bursary or scholarship• have lived experience of a mental health condition as a consumer or carer• ability to secure a paid or unpaid work placement opportunity in a mental health consumer/carer peer worker role in NSW with a mental health service provider prior to enrolling in the course (this can be existing employment, or a work placement sourced by the learner) *• have a workplace supervisor or manager willing to provide evidence of the learners' competency in the units/qualification as part of work placement• be able to meet the attendance and study requirements to complete the peer work course <p>* please contact MHCC for more details and support in how to obtain this</p>
Entry Recommendations	<p>To be prepared for this course, we recommend that you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Empathy, patience and the desire to empower others• Be in a place in your personal recovery journey that you are willing and able to support others• Good organisational and time management skills• Good written and verbal communication skills• Ability to work independently and in groups
Completion Requirements	<p>Depending on the requirements of the work placement organisation, you may be required to have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NSW Working with Children Check (WWCC)• A National Police Check• NDIS screening• Up to date immunisations• Vaccination and health screenings• Any additional evidence your work placement provider requires <p><u>What to consider before enrolling in this course</u></p>

Important Information

This qualification contains content, concepts and scenarios that may be distressing. Please consider your personal resilience and recovery journey (including any potential triggers) when participating in this qualification and in any future employment in this field.

Further Study Pathways

Skill Sets	Certificate IV	Diploma	Advanced Diploma
CHCSS00104 Peer Leadership Skill Set	CHC43315 Certificate IV in Mental Health	CHC53315 Diploma of Mental Health CHC52021 Diploma of Community Services CHC51015 Diploma of Counselling	CHC62015 Advanced Diploma of Community Sector Management

Recognition Processes

On enrolment, learners will be asked to identify any options for recognition of prior learning or credit transfer. Learners have the opportunity to enrol into a full or partial recognition program.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) – full recognition

This assessment only option is most suited to workers with current industry experience of 5 or more years and with extensive specific knowledge and skill in the competencies contained in the CHC43315 Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work. Learners who believe they already have the skills and knowledge required for the qualification can apply for an RPL process and are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Partial Recognition/Blended Pathway

This option is most suited to someone with current industry experience of two or more years with knowledge and skills in the competencies contained in the CHC43315 Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work

Credit Transfer

If you have completed studies that are equivalent to some units and can provide enough evidence, you may gain credits for some units as well. The study needs to be equivalent to those units and certified copies of transcripts need to be provided as part of your application. If your studies are not equivalent but contribute towards some units, you may be able to use these for partial recognition.

The Learner Handbook and the Student Hub provide information for potential learners on the delivery and assessment options available.

Learning and Support Services

MHCC employs a team of Student Support Officers to support learners through the full learner journey (from enquiry through to completion). Learners can access this support by phone or email.

Learners can access support through the Canvas learner management system. This system gives access to:

- Discussion boards with other peer learners
- Email access to their trainer or assessor
- Live chat with MHCC support staff

MHCC can provide some support and reasonable adjustments or learners with identified Language, Literacy, Numeracy and Digital (LLND) and employability skills needs, however appropriate referrals are recommended for those requiring additional LLND and employability skills assistance. Information is supplied in Learner Handbook and given verbally by student support staff.

To meet the range of potential physical and mental health challenges that learners may encounter, MHCC provides flexibility in attendance and completion, including, but not limited to:

- Extensions
- Transfers to other programs (if available)
- Deferrals
- Refunds on withdrawals under specified terms

MHCC provides tailored support services. Whatever your needs or circumstances, we have the people, resources and facilities to support you in focusing on your studies:

- Learning needs support
- Disability support including reasonable adjustments
- Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) support
- Culturally specific and safe support services
- Careers and pathways support
- Scholarship programs – be supported as you explore your skills
- Learning resources to use while studying on campus and at home
- Study and assessment workshops
- Student associations – get connected with our learner community

Information on how to access these measures is contained in the [Learner Handbook](#).

Visit the [Student Hub](#) for access to MHCC's RTO policies and procedures.

Environment, Facilities and Location

Courses are delivered online and face to face in various venues across NSW.

All learners are required to have access to a computer or device along with stable internet connection to access the online learning system and attend any online classes and support sessions.

All other resources, materials, and templates needed are provided during the course of study.

All learners in this qualification will need to have access to a suitable work placement approved by MHCC in either a paid or voluntary peer work role.