

# Invitation to participate in focus group – Review of mental health emergency care in NSW Emergency Departments

## Paid consultation opportunity

The NSW Ministry of Health is reviewing mental health emergency care in NSW Emergency Departments and has engaged Taylor Fry and ARTD Consultants to help with this work. As part of the review, ARTD Consultants are talking to a range of stakeholders from across NSW, including mental health consumers and carers.

ARTD Consultants is planning to hold 2 online focus groups – one for mental health consumers and one for mental health carers – in **September 2024**. Each focus group will take **1.5 hours** and include **up to 6 participants**.

### To participate in the focus groups you must:

- have lived experience of presenting to a NSW Emergency Department for a mental health concern, or
- have lived experience of supporting a loved one who has presented to a NSW Emergency Department for a mental health concern, and
- have experience as a consumer or carer advocate
- be over 18 years old
- have email and reliable internet access (to communicate and attend the online focus group).

### What will you be asked if you agree to participate?

ARTD will ask you about:

- your experience of arriving at the ED and time spent in the ED
- your experiences and relationships with staff
- any outcomes you experienced (e.g. were you connected to the care you needed)
- suggestions to improve the experience for others in a similar situation.

You will be provided with an information sheet and interview guide in advance so you know what you will be asked about.

We understand that asking people to talk about their experiences can be challenging. It is completely up to you if you would like to take part in the focus group, and you can leave the group at any time without providing an explanation.

### Will you be paid for participating?

This is a paid opportunity. If you are not employed by NSW Health or being paid by another organisation, you will be paid \$40 an hour in accordance with the [NSW Health Consumer, Carer and Community Member Remuneration Guidelines](#).

### How will the information I share be used?

- The information collected from you will be treated confidentially. ARTD Consultants will not use your name in any reporting.

- Focus group participants will also be asked not to share information they hear during the focus group with others.

**What should I do if I am interested in being involved?**

If you would like to take part in the focus group, please email your name and contact details to:

[MOH-MHB-MHEC@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:MOH-MHB-MHEC@health.nsw.gov.au)

**By 20 September 2024.**

You will be contacted after the closing date.

Thank you for your assistance.