
WSRC Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

27 June 2018

The first meeting of the Western Sydney Recovery College Student Voice Advisory Group was held at Community room, West Point, Blacktown on 21 November 2018.

Attendees: 2 staff members, 2 students

Apologies from 2 students

I. Welcome

The meeting commenced with acknowledgement of country and acknowledgement of mental health lived experience.

Attendees introduced themselves.

II. What is an advisory group?

The purpose of the group was explained. Students to be involved and provide advice to the college on what is working or not, issues and how to solve them.

Previously the advisory group made up of stakeholders, partners, with consumer/carer representatives. We wanted to involve more students.

Some general discussion was had about Recovery College courses.

III. Terms of Reference brainstorm

The group went through the previous Terms of Reference (TOR) used for the Advisory Group and agreed on changes to be made. (See attached document.)

3. Membership: Should remain open to all groups including workers, although it was acknowledged that workers cannot always make meetings. Agreed that bigger groups will lead to more variety of discussion, brainstorming and feedback. Delete line about timeframe of group, instead keeping group open to anyone who is available to attend.

4. Minutes: Discussed how to distribute minutes. Agreed we could make them available online, possibly send an SMS to group members when they are available. Hard copies to be provided at next meeting.

5. Meetings: May delete phrasing about quorum. Monthly meetings would be regular enough.

6. Conflict of interest: agreed, fairly standard.

7. OHS: agreed, change to reflect flexibility of venue.

8. Budget and reimbursement: Agreed it was not appropriate to offer an honorarium as would not want people attending purely for the reimbursement.

IV. How to distribute minutes?

Already discussed during TOR discussion.

V. Next meeting

Possibly in late January.

Other Business

There was discussion about recent course attended where the text on the slides and workbook was too pale or too small to read.

Discussion about venues, possibility of other venues that could be used, the need for a Hub. Suggestions were made such as using church halls (e.g. Doonside Baptist Church), partnering with other organisations.

Discussion about the importance of education for mental health.

Need to use media and social media for promotion, ideas brainstorm:

- Wall at shopping centre library
- Info at West Point – is there an info board?
- Local newspapers have free community notices
- Noticeboards at churches – places that people go to to seek help
- Migrant groups – we do already have partnerships
- Language newspapers – to reach different cultural groups, again have community notices in English
- Showground community board at Blacktown and Blacktown council groups
- Council community newsletter, council offices?
- Schools, PTA

Adjournment

Adjourned at 12:05pm.

Next meeting: TBA.