

Resourcing Inclusive Communities

Peer Network Community Agreement

This document outlines the purpose, core values and commitments of Resourcing Inclusive Communities Peer Networks.

Who is a Peer?

A peer is a person with disability, family member, or friend, who shares an interest or connection to the topic that we are discussing and can contribute their own perspective, knowledge and learning as well as gain insight and ideas from fellow peers.

Our Purpose:

Peer Networks are designed to be a safe and supportive space for people with disability, family members and friends to come together on a regular basis to share stories, develop and strengthen connections, and learn from one another. This is a space where wins and successes are shared and celebrated amongst the group, and whilst we acknowledge and unpack the challenges too, our conversations always remain strength-based and values-driven.

It is important that the dignity of people with disability is continuously upheld throughout conversations during these peer networks.

Who are Peer Networks for?

Peer Network meetings are for people with disability, family members and friends. People who attend peer networks do so in a personal relational capacity to a person with disability, and not in a professional role. However, if you are professional and a family member, you are invited to please attend in your role as a family member. Additionally, if you are a professional who is supporting someone else to attend our meeting, please reach out to Resourcing Inclusive Communities to discuss this.

Resourcing Inclusive Communities also offers a range of events that professionals can attend. Please visit our [website here](#) for further information on upcoming events.

What can you expect?

Peer Networks are facilitated by resourceful family leaders with lived experience. Each meeting will focus on a different theme, pulling together useful elements from previous meetings. Some peer networks may include a guest speaker who will join the meeting to contribute their expertise and knowledge.

Follow up emails will include relevant resources discussed during the meeting.

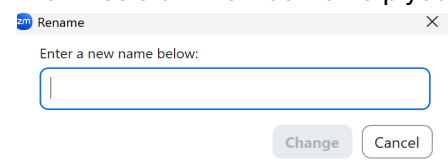
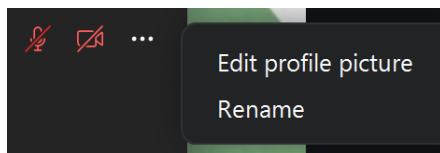
Due to the sensitive and personal nature of peer network conversations, follow-up emails will only be sent to peers who attend the meeting, or who let Resourcing Inclusive Communities staff know that they are unable to attend and would like to receive the follow-up.

How we meet together

To maintain a welcoming, inclusive and values-driven environment, everyone involved in Peer Networks – including peers, facilitators, and Resourcing Inclusive Communities staff – contributes to creating a space where people feel safe, respected and heard.

We share the following commitments:

- Privacy and confidentiality
 - The privacy of all peers, facilitators and Resourcing Inclusive Communities staff will be maintained at all times
 - The privacy of peers' stories shared amongst the group will be kept. Please do not disclose specific details of another peers' story outside of the peer network – you can take the ideas, strategies and suggestions offered but please do not take someone else's story
 - In order to ensure the privacy and confidentiality of those attending the peer network, please be mindful of the environment in which you are attending, e.g., if there are other people in the same vicinity as you who have not registered for the peer network, please use headphones when attending or sit in a separate room
- We respect each person's contributions and create space for everyone to share, listen and be heard
- Facilitators will support the group to stay on theme and to maintain a respectful and inclusive environment
- Peers will only need to register once for a series of peer meetings, and we will continue to let you know about upcoming peer meetings in the series. Please contact Resourcing Inclusive Communities if you are no longer able to attend meetings
- Peer Networks are designed to be interactive. Please make your presence known to the group by turning on your camera and contributing to the discussion either via the group chat or by turning on your microphone and speaking to the group. Peers are asked to please keep their microphones turned off when they are not speaking to avoid any background noise
- Peers are asked to please ensure that the name listed on your zoom account matches the name that you registered. You can change your name on zoom by pressing the three dots next to your name and selecting Rename. You can then enter in your name and select change. If you need support, please ask a Resourcing Inclusive Communities staff member to help you.



What Peer Support is:

- A commitment to seeking learning and support that leads to the genuine inclusion of people with disability
- People freely giving support and encouragement to one another to create a positive basis for peer-to-peer learning
- Based on common experiences between peers and sharing of ideas and insights
- Listening to the experiences of others
- An opportunity to ask questions and work through practical strategies relevant to your circumstances
- An opportunity to learn from facilitators and to put new learning into action
- A place to celebrate achievements

What Peer Support isn't:

- An obligation – it should be freely given and freely entered in to
- Giving advice - it is sharing experiences and listening to the experiences of others
- Just a chat together – peer networks are more structured and have topics to address
- The same thing as advocacy
 - if you are interested in accessing advocacy support, please email advocacyandleadership@family-advocacy.com or call 9869 0866 and ask to speak to the Advocacy team
- The support that comes from funded services, from professionals or from people who don't have the same personal or lived experiences that are the basis for the peer support
- Having tasks undertaken for you by others
- A space to discuss options that do not promote the genuine inclusion of people with disability

Contact Us

If you have any questions or you would like to discuss any of this information further, please reach out to Resourcing Inclusive Communities staff

Email: info@ric.org.au

Phone: 02 9869 7753