

Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Adult Lived Experience Advisory Network (LEAN) Terms of Reference

Purpose

This document outlines the roles, expectations and processes of the domestic, family and sexual violence adult Lived Experience Advisory Network (LEAN).

Embolden is the peak body for specialist domestic, family and sexual violence services across South Australia. Embolden is coordinating the adult LEAN on behalf of the South Australian Government.

The importance of lived experience

Lived experience describes the knowledge, insights and expertise that arise from the direct experience of domestic, family and/or sexual violence. The use of the term 'person with lived experience' carries an acknowledgment that, for many people with lived experience of domestic, family and sexual violence, the experience is both lived and living – it is ongoing.

Embolden and the SA Government recognise and respect the valuable knowledge, skills and perspectives of people with lived experience of domestic, family and/or sexual violence. How our State responds and supports people experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence must be grounded in the perspectives of those with lived expertise. SA's Royal Commission into domestic, family and sexual violence clearly highlights the need to ensure diverse South Australians with lived experience contribute actively to system reforms, policy and practice. This is the purpose of the LEAN.

We also recognise that for many people, sharing their lived experience in advocating for system change is an important part of their healing and recovery from violence.

Network aims

The LEAN is the first statewide lived experience network focused on domestic, family and sexual violence established in SA. It is a key mechanism to embed domestic, family and sexual violence lived expertise within the work of the SA Government and the DFSV services sector more broadly. The LEAN aims to capture insights and feedback from people with lived experience of domestic/intimate partner violence, family violence and/or sexual violence.

The LEAN consists of community members with lived experience of domestic, family and/or sexual violence who will be engaged to:

- provide feedback, advice and input on key issues and topics relating to domestic, family and sexual violence
- may be asked to contribute to the design, development and evaluation of domestic, family and sexual violence services and initiatives

Membership

LEAN members are people with lived experience of domestic, family and/or sexual violence in South Australia who:

- Identify as a victim-survivor of domestic, family and/or sexual violence
- May or may not have received services in relation to their experience
- Are over the age of 18
- Live in South Australia

Membership of the LEAN includes people with experiences of sexual violence outside of the context of domestic and family violence, and people who are now adults who have experience of childhood sexual abuse.

The LEAN welcomes everyone with a range of experiences and from diverse communities to nominate to become a network member. We understand that members may share information about their community or identity group, but do not expect them to act as a formal representative of their communities.

A person can indicate their interest in joining the LEAN via Embolden's website [here](#).

Participation in the LEAN is entirely voluntary, and members can contact us at any time if they no longer wish to participate.

Membership in the LEAN involves an expectation that all members engage with respect, empathy and care, upholding safe behaviours that foster a supportive, inclusive environment for everyone involved.

Embolden reserves the right to cease an individual's membership of the LEAN where that member's conduct does not uphold safe behaviours or otherwise does not align with these terms of reference.

Participation

Engagement opportunities will be agreed between the Department of Human Services and Embolden. DHS and Embolden respect the time and expertise of LEAN members and will choose issues and topics that have the potential to achieve positive change for victim-survivors.

Most commonly, LEAN members will be engaged via surveys and email. Embolden and DHS may also invite members to participate in interviews, focus groups or workshops. These will be held in person, online or a combination ('hybrid').

Embolden will also provide LEAN members with the opportunity to attend webinars on topics that aim to support their participation in the LEAN and create connections across the network.

Members will be supported to participate in engagement opportunities.

Frequency of communication

In addition to specific engagement opportunities, LEAN members will receive a newsletter six times a year that will:

- inform LEAN members about relevant reforms and developments
- provide updates on work the LEAN has contributed to
- outline upcoming opportunities to take part in engagement activities

Payment

The SA Government and Embolden value every involvement and contribution by LEAN members. Membership and participation in activities as part of the LEAN are unpaid unless specified otherwise.

Engagement opportunities that are paid will be clearly outlined to LEAN members. Members will be reimbursed for their time when participating in focus groups, workshops and interviews.

Roles and responsibilities

Embolden

Embolden is responsible for coordination and administration of the LEAN. The team will prepare regular communication to LEAN members, coordinate engagement opportunities in partnership with DHS, and document LEAN feedback and input.

Embolden will prepare quarterly reports for the Minister on LEAN activities and advise DHS on key issues raised by LEAN members.

Embolden will aim to respond to any correspondence from LEAN members within 3 business days of receipt.

LEAN Members

LEAN members will choose which activities they wish to participate in.

LEAN members will be assumed to be a part of the network unless opting out of the network by contacting Embolden.

Members are expected to advise Embolden of any changes to their contact information.

Support to participate

Most engagement will take place via email or online platforms such as MS Teams or Zoom. Some activities may take place in person. Members will be provided with appropriate supports to enable them participate, depending on the nature of the engagement opportunity and the individual needs of members. This will involve considerations of accessibility and cultural safety needs.

Confidentiality

Any information that LEAN members share will be treated as confidential. Information will only be used for the purpose stated for the engagement. Embolden will ask for consent to share any feedback as part of each engagement opportunity. Unless specifically agreed with members, feedback and input will be deidentified and/or pseudonyms used.

Conflicts of Interest

Embolden recognises that people with lived experience come from a range of backgrounds and occupations. Considerations of conflict of interest may apply for some engagements. Members may be asked to declare any conflict of interest depending on the nature of engagement.

Public communication

The Embolden CEO can speak in public forums, including to the media, on behalf of the LEAN. Unless specifically authorised by the Embolden CEO, LEAN members will not comment or speak on behalf of or represent the LEAN, the South Australian Government or Embolden in public forums or via the media, including social media.

Review

A review of the LEAN and its terms of reference will be undertaken 12 months from commencement.

Contact information

Queries can be directed to Embolden by emailing livedexperience@embolden.org.au or calling 0447 670 827.