

Reporting to	Diversity and Inclusion Lead
Classification	Volunteer position with paid contribution opportunities
Location	Wurundjeri Lands - Richmond, Victoria with capacity for virtual attendance

## About ACSO

The Australian Community Support Organisation (ACSO) was established in 1983 as the Epistle Centre, by Stan McCormack, an individual who experienced incarceration, to support people exiting the prison system, to find housing, employment and other supports. Over more than 35 years later, ACSO has grown and diversified to provide life-changing support programs for people in contact with or at-risk of entering the justice system.

ACSO is an organisation with a bold vision for a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive, and prison truly is the last resort. It's our goal to reduce re-offending, and our purpose to strengthen the wellbeing of communities by advocating for and delivering services which divert people away from the justice system.

Our Vision	ACSO's vision is for a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive, and prison truly is the last resort.
Our Purpose	Our purpose is to strengthen the wellbeing of communities by advocating for and delivering services which divert people away from the justice system.
Our Ethos	"Understand the story. Support the change."
Our Core Values	<p><b>Passion;</b> Our heart and passion are at the core of everything we do.</p> <p><b>Belief in Humanity;</b> We believe that everyone deserves another chance and entitled to opportunities which can help them change their lives and realise their potential.</p> <p><b>Integrity in all we do;</b> We are genuine in our relationships with clients and each other, always true to ourselves and courageous in our approach.</p> <p><b>Innovative spirit;</b> We are willing to explore and develop new and innovative solutions and take on the challenges that confront us.</p>

## Purpose of the position

The Lived Experience Advisory Panel is made up of 12 members who meet monthly to provide feedback on ACSO service delivery, evaluation, and recruitment. The 12-month tenure will have a strong co-design element to its function.

Members who have demonstrated throughout their 12 month membership a sound understanding of and commitment to the LEAPs purpose and their role and responsibilities may be offered opportunities to become involved in the Lived Experience Alumni Group for participation on advocacy and community engagement more broadly. For example:

- Opportunities to engage in public speaking opportunities
- Opportunities to facilitate meetings/workshops/events
- Opportunities to perform a mentoring/leadership role
- Opportunities to become involved in internal and external ACSO events.

## Deliverables

- Co-design service implementation and evaluation
- Participate in the recruitment process of ACSO employees and/or Advisory Panel members
- Share thoughts on what those impacted by our services want and need from ACSO
- Advocate for the right of service users
- Work with ACSO employees and service users to co-design projects and programs
- Participate in the review of ACSO programs, services and consumer participation efforts to inform directions
- Read, understand and follow the conditions outlined in the relevant Terms of Reference
- Attend and actively participate in monthly meetings
- Attend and actively participate in any additional meetings/workshops/events as necessary
- Direct any questions/concerns/grievances regarding consumer participation or the Diversity and Inclusion Lead.

## Eligibility

Consumers of ACSO include individuals who:

- Have previously accessed a service provided by ACSO, or
- Currently access a service provided by ACSO
- Have been impacted by the systems in which ACSO provide services

## Key Selection Criteria

### Essential

- 18 years of age or older.
- Comfortable with speaking and working in groups
- Understand ACSOs work, purpose and values
- Possess an understanding of the needs, expectations and service concerns of consumers of at least one service/program of ACSO
- Possess knowledge of consumer participation/advocacy or, an interest in learning
- Possess a commitment to maintaining and/or enhancing the quality, appropriateness and accessibility of services/programs provided by ACSO
- Commitment to participate learning and development as required.
- Commitment to abide by relevant terms of reference
- Commitment to attend and actively participate in monthly Advisory Panel meetings and other related meetings/events/workshops as required.

### Desirable

- Good communication skills
- Individuals who are either overrepresented in or have diverse needs within the forensic system
- Individuals with some knowledge or experience of groups/committees and/or consumer advocacy
- Exited ACSO consumers/participants or current ACSO consumers/participants who are engaging actively with a support worker and /or demonstrating a strong commitment to self-improvement.