



Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFSV) Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) Frequently Asked Questions

Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual
Violence

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About the domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG)

How long are LEAG members in the role for?

Members are appointed for an initial term of two (2) years.

I live next to a SA border. Can I still apply?

If you live in South Australia, then we encourage you to apply. The LEAG is only open to South Australian residents, however there may be a similar group in your state.

- Victoria: [Victim Survivors' Advisory Council](#), [The Weavers Project](#)
- Western Australia: [Lived Experience Advisory Group](#)
- Northern Territory: [Domestic, family and sexual violence reduction | Department of Children and Families](#)

What is the difference between LEAG and LEAN?

The Lived Experience Advisory Network (LEAN) is a community network which has unlimited numbers of people with lived experience of domestic, family and sexual violence. The LEAN is coordinated by Embolden, the peak body for domestic, family and sexual violence services in South Australia.

The Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) is a smaller group comprising of 12 LEAN members that reports to the Minister for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence. The LEAG is coordinated by Department of Human Services.

The differences between the groups are highlighted in the following table.

How the group is structured and runs	Adult Lived Experience Advisory Network (LEAN)	Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG)
Function	Provides insight and feedback on domestic, family and sexual violence policy proposals, service models and reform initiatives. Participates in co-design processes, consultations, and strategic planning with government and sector partners.	Provides strategic advice to the Minister on specific themes and topics, ensuring decisions include the voices of lived experiences
Term of appointment	Ongoing, members can join/leave whenever they wish	2-year-term
Membership numbers	Uncapped	Up to 12 including Chairperson
Member selection process	Expression of interest process twice per year	Expression of interest process every two years. Must be an adult LEAN member. Applications will undergo a selection process, with recommendations provided to the Minister for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence for final decision.
Co-ordinator/secretariat	Embolden	Department of Human Services
Remuneration	Dependent on engagement opportunity: payment information	Remunerated: payment information
Support for members	Supports dependent on engagement opportunity	Supports available for all members

Can members be a member of both LEAN and LEAG?

100% yes. You can be a member of LEAN and LEAG at the same time.

You can only be a member of the LEAG if you are already a LEAN member. You can find out more about the LEAN and how to register your interest here: [Lived Experience Engagement Embolden](#)

As a LEAG member you can also participate in LEAN activities.

How many people will be on the LEAG?

There will be up to 12 members of the LEAG including the Chairperson. This is in alignment with similar groups interstate.

What does being a LEAG member involve?

The LEAG will meet four times a year for four hours and members are encouraged to attend all meetings.

Special meetings may be called to progress critical work. In these instances, members will be given at least ten (10) days' notice before the scheduled meeting date.

Members may be asked to participate in out-of-session activities which will complement the work of the LEAG. Potential activities include:

- Training and/or professional development opportunities
- Specific consultations.

Full details including member responsibilities are contained in the [Terms of Reference](#).

Being a LEAG member

Will I be paid for my time?

LEAG members are entitled to remuneration as the LEAG is a formal government committee.

Members will be paid \$177 per four-hour session and \$44.25 per hour for out of session work as agreed by the Minister or DHS.

The Chairperson will be paid \$221 per four-hour session and \$55.25 per hour for out of session work as agreed by the Minister or DHS.

In accordance with the [Premier and Cabinet Circular PC016](#), public sector employees are not eligible for remuneration unless an exemption is supported by the Minister and approved by the Chief Executive of DPC.

What are the possible risks of being a LEAG member?

Being a LEAG member may involve emotional discomfort or distress, as discussions focus on domestic, family and sexual violence and are grounded in lived experience. This can be particularly challenging in a group where members are deeply connected to the issues being discussed and may hear experiences similar to their own. While supports and safety planning are in place, members are encouraged to reflect on their own wellbeing, readiness and support needs when considering applying.

What support will be available?

The Department of Human Services will work with each LEAG member to prepare a safety and support plan for each person and ensure members are supported – this includes cultural safety for Aboriginal members. Full details are outlined in the [Terms of Reference: Safety and Wellbeing](#).

How do I know if the LEAG is the right opportunity for me?

We understand people with lived experience are often strongly motivated to help create positive change for others. Participating in the LEAG can be a rewarding opportunity, but it is also important to consider your own wellbeing, readiness and support needs.

You may wish to reflect on whether this opportunity feels right for you at this time, including:

- Your readiness to engage in discussions about domestic, family and sexual violence that may be emotionally challenging.
- Your ability to attend meetings regularly and participate respectfully in a group setting.
- Your willingness to collaborate with others, listen to diverse perspectives and contribute to a culturally safe and compassionate environment.
- Your interest in sharing insights from your lived experience to inform government decision making and system reform.
- The supports you have in place, and whether additional support may be helpful while participating.

You do not need to have previous experience in advocacy, policy or government processes to apply. Members are supported to participate in ways that are safe and manageable for them. A [self-reflection tool](#) is available to assist you in considering this opportunity, and you are encouraged to talk it through with someone you trust, such as a support person or worker.

What is the confidentiality in this group?

LEAG members may decide to remain 'anonymous' in the public domain if they are concerned about their safety and wellbeing. The wider group will be informed of any member's decision to remain anonymous, and members will be required to keep the identities and details of those individuals confidential.

Your names and identifying details will need to be provided to:

- apply for the Expression of interest process and for the necessary screening checks during the selection process
- be shared with key stakeholders including other LEAG members, the secretariat and payroll.

The discussions within LEAG meetings are confidential.

Communications that can be shared externally to stakeholders and the wider community will be agreed within the LEAG.

I work in the sector or may have a conflict of interest. How will this be managed?

We recognise that many people with lived experience of domestic, family and sexual violence also work within, or alongside, the domestic, family and sexual violence, health, community services or government sectors. **This is common and is not considered a conflict of interest.**

Members participate in the LEAG in a personal capacity. They cannot use their role to promote their job, volunteer work, or employer, and the LEAG role cannot be used for professional advocacy.

LEAG members are required to declare any **actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest** and comply with the *Public Sector (Honesty and Accountability) Act 1995* and the *Public Sector Code of Ethics*. Conflicts are managed on a case-by-case basis, with a focus on transparency and integrity rather than exclusion.

What is not a conflict of interest?

On its own, the following are **not** considered conflicts of interest:

- working or volunteering in the domestic, family and sexual violence, health, community services or related sectors
- working for the South Australian Government
- being employed by, or having previously worked for, a service provider, peak body or government agency
- having professional knowledge of policies, programs or systems related to domestic, family and sexual violence
- participating in advocacy, peer support or lived experience engagement activities
- drawing on lived experience that overlaps with professional or sector experience.

These experiences are common and are recognised as contributing valuable insight to the work of the LEAG.

When a conflict does need to be managed

If a matter being discussed directly affects a member's personal or financial interests, the member must:

- disclose the interest in writing to the Chairperson as soon as reasonably practicable
- not take part in discussions relating to the matter
- step out of the meeting (or relevant part of the meeting) while the matter is discussed or decided.

This approach supports trust, fairness and safe participation for all members.

The Expression of Interest Process

What is the selection process?

An initial shortlist will be created by reviewing each applicant individually.

The LEAG membership will seek to achieve an appropriate representation of the diverse experiences of domestic, family and sexual violence and South Australia's diverse population including representation from the following:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- LGBTQIA+ communities
- People from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds

- people with disability
- people with lived experience of incarceration
- people from regional and remote South Australia
- a range of ages (from 18 years and above).

Although members might provide advice from the perspective of their peers, identity group or community, they are not expected to formally represent their communities on the LEAG.

Shortlisting will also consider skills, capabilities, readiness and collaboration.

In accordance with the South Australia government commitment, LEAG will comprise of at least 50% women.

Selection Panel

A summary of all applications will be provided to the selection panel for their review with those identified as potential for shortlisting.

The selection panel will consist of:

- A representative with strong understanding of sexual violence
- An Aboriginal representative
- Director, Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence
- General Manager, Domestic Family and Sexual Violence reform
- A domestic family and sexual violence sector representative.

Once the panel has reviewed applications and a short listed of recommended applicants confirmed, applicants will be contacted to undertake screening checks.

The number of applicants shortlisted will be more than the (up to) 12 member spots on the LEAG. This is to enable the Minister for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence to review short listed applicants and determine the final LEAG membership.

Due to the anticipated high level of interest and applications and the need to balance a range of experiences and perspectives, individual feedback will not be provided, and there is no process to request a review of selection decisions.

Not being shortlisted or selected does not reflect the value of an individual's lived experience or their capacity to contribute in other ways (for example, by participating in engagement opportunities through the LEAN).

What checks or screening will you do for selecting LEAG members?

We recognise that lived experience of domestic, family and sexual violence brings with it experience of policing, justice, criminal systems and child protection.

A working with children check is not identified as required for LEAG positions.

The following checks will occur for shortlisted applicants:

- Completion of the mandatory Pre-Employment Declaration issued by the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment.
- Two reference checks: the contact details of which are provided through the expression of interest form. We will advise applicants prior to seeking reference checks. Reference checks will explore the information received from the expression of interest form and/or

relevant discussions with applicants. Specific focus will be on confirming identity, quality and capacity to undertake the role and integrity of the applicant (aligned with State Government requirements).

- National Police Check: this will be funded and conducted by DHS for all shortlisted applicants.

In relation to the National Police Check, where a recorded conviction is received, these will be assessed as per [Commissioner for Public Sector Employment Guideline – Recruitment](#) on a case-by-case basis.

Where disclosed information is the primary factor affecting suitability, applicants will be afforded procedural fairness and supported to provide additional context before a final decision is made before providing to the Minister for consideration.

Support for completing your EOI form

I need an interpreter to help me fill in the form

We can arrange a time to call you with an interpreter and fill in the form over the phone. Please email us to arrange this: dfsvlivedexperience@sa.gov.au.

Can I see the questions you ask without completing the form?

Yes – a [Word version](#) of the questions included in the online form is available.

I have a question about the application process and the expression of interest form, who can I talk to?

We are happy to talk about the Expression of interest process and answer any questions you make have. Please note we cannot decide whether this opportunity is right for you or help complete your expression of interest.

To arrange a time to talk to us, email us at dfsvlivedexperience@sa.gov.au