Why be a PEER researcher?
The benefits of PEER involvement

“I always wanted to see the “Bigger Picture” with regards to recovery at all levels. By this I mean I wanted to be in a position where I could be part of forming/shaping the future in substance misuse of alcohol, with regards to treatment, attitudes and perceptions. This (PEER research) provides me with that opportunity.”
The PEER Role

• Developing new research questions
• Leading research – lead applicant/PI on a grant proposal
• Co-researchers – conducting, analysing and interpreting qualitative interviews/focus groups with peers
• Consultants - give feedback on draft documents (e.g. research briefs, grant applications, research reports, literature for research participants)
• Advisors – members of project advisory groups
• Dissemination – co-presenting at conferences
• Sitting on interview panels for the recruitment of new researchers
• Contributing to strategy decisions

Training/Supervision

• PEERs have no previous experience of research
• Training manuals e.g. beginners guide to conducting qualitative interviews, managing research studies etc.
• Practical sessions delivered alongside each manual
• Monthly team conference calls
• Regular supervision with experienced researcher
Why have embedded PEERs?

• Traditional researchers and PEERs learn from each other
• Helps identify and focus on issues of importance to research population
• Assists in understanding some of the perspectives of research population
• PEERs have an instant rapport with research participants
• Increases credibility and quality of research
• Valued by stakeholders