## Are you interested in supporting your community to engage in research aiming to support end-of-life choices education in the ACT?

## **Become a peer facilitator for the “Getting Ready” project**

With voluntary assisted dying coming to the ACT later this year, a group of researchers are working with ACT communities to ***learn more about what education we feel we need when we’re planning end-of-life choices***.

These researchers would like to train and pay community representatives to become “peer facilitators” and help their community participate (through surveys and discussions) in the Getting Ready research project.

Some communities need extra support to be heard.

The researchers are particularly keen to partner with people who identify as a member of communities like:

o people with lived experience\* of poverty or financial stress

o people without stable or appropriate housing currently/previously

o People with lived experience of the criminal legal system

o People with lived experience of mental illness

o People with a disability unrelated to a life-limiting illness

o People with lived experience of harmful use of tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs

o People who identify as LGBTQI+

o People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

o People of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent

o People with veteran status

o People living in residential aged care or receiving a level 3 or 4 home care package

**\*Note**: We are using the term “lived experience” here to refer to the knowledge, understanding, and perspective gained from personally navigating through a specific situation/challenge (such as those listed above). If you are interested to be involved but are unsure if you have “lived experience”, please have a chat with us!

**Getting Ready Research Team: 0435 104 932 | GettingReady@act.gov.au**

# Peer Facilitator Role Description

**Role description:**

A Getting Ready facilitator is a community member who identifies as being part of a priority population who the Getting Ready project team wishes to engage with. This is a short-term role (~12 hours across the whole project).

You will be a project team member who will be sharing information about the Getting Ready project with your community and advising and supporting opportunities for safe engagement with your community. We know communities with different backgrounds may speak about end-of-life topics with specific attitudes toward things like family involvement, cultural practices or working with medical institutions. As a Getting Ready facilitator, you can help us understand what is important to your community so we can be respectful and include these views in our research. As a Getting Ready facilitator, you will be working alongside other peer facilitators with support from the Getting Ready project team.

**Responsibilities/Role of the facilitator:**

* Share information about opportunities to engage with Getting Ready with your community. This could include telling people about the project, sharing flyers about taking part in the project, and helping spread the word about education and focus group events where your community can have their voices heard by the project team.
* Give initial advice to the project team about how best to engage with your community. This could include sharing information about when and how to book education or focus group events, how to make these events accessible for your community, how to approach talking about sensitive topics with your community, and where to distribute information.
* Be involved in focus groups or education events to support communication and safe engagement. The Getting Ready research team is conscious that we don’t have your knowledge and experience in engaging with your community. We’d welcome your support in doing that as well as we can. That could include:
  + Attending a training for facilitating focus groups (if interested in facilitation) and training on participating in this project from a lived experience perspective
  + Having meetings with research team to provide advice on the appropriateness of questions and advertising and any potential issues that might come up with your community
  + Joining pre-arranged meetings with your community members (as part of education or focus groups), ideally as a meeting facilitator or co-facilitator
  + Helping your community make sense of what’s being discussed during those events, or even speaking to the group about the project with guidance from the Getting Ready team.
  + Having a debrief after the session – the Getting Ready team will provide psychological and emotional support and direct you to services where appropriate if any tough issues come up
  + Being involved in a meeting to make sense of the information gathered in the focus groups/surveys, with a lived experience lens
  + Receiving a summary of the information gathered in these focus groups, which can be shared to your community
* Supporting data collection. This could include collecting paper forms like surveys and returning these forms to the Getting Ready team.
* Providing informal interpretation of another language into English or helping team members understand the cultural context that’s being expressed by community members (where appropriate) when there are language or culture differences between the Getting Ready team and your community members
* As a Getting Ready facilitator, you won’t be responsible for:
  + Conducting the Getting Ready study or work in any way that hasn’t been agreed on at the start
  + Staying involved if it no longer suits you

**Who we are looking for:**

Essentials:

Someone who identifies as a member of at least one of the following key communities:

o A person with lived experience of poverty or financial stress

o A person without stable or appropriate housing currently/previously

o A person with lived experience of the criminal legal system

o A person with lived experience of mental illness

o A person with a disability unrelated to a life-limiting illness

o A person with lived experience of harmful use of tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs

o A person who identifies as LGBTQI+

o A person from a culturally and linguistically diverse background

o A person of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent

o A person with veteran status

o A person living in residential aged care or receiving a level 3 or 4 home care package

Have effective communication skills, interpersonal skills, and cultural competence relevant to their community.

Have the ability to work effectively and respectfully within a team of individuals with diverse backgrounds.

Feel able to engage with your community and are willing to fulfill the elements of the role as it’s described above.

**Support provided**

* Information and training you need to feel confident that you will be able to fulfill this role (see <https://shorturl.at/WoYve> for more information). For example:
  + Information about the project process (e.g., recruitment, communication) and the facilitator’s role in the project.
  + Information around the role of a community representative, how to represent broad perspectives for your community, how to keep yourself safe, what is included/excluded in the role, taking care of yourself, and maintaining boundaries.
  + Focus Group facilitation training with other peer facilitators - including how to manage conflict in the session, keeping the conversation on topic, ensuring everyone gets to speak and self-care for the facilitator.
  + Links to information around death literacy and VAD so they are better equipped to provide answers to FAQs
  + Any additional support you feel you need to complete this role safely.
* A platform for ongoing feedback and communication between yourself, other peer facilitators, and the project team (e.g., how the role and project is working for you) so we can provide the support you need
* An opportunity to be involved in periodic catch-up meetings with other peer facilitators to support each other and feedback to the project teams about anything we should be learning
* A gift card of $100 for every engagement in this work of up to 2 hours
* The potential to be offered similar opportunities within this project or with the team in the future if they become available

**Expression of interest**

[**https://forms.office.com/r/RhcFG920da**](https://forms.office.com/r/RhcFG920da)

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