

Executive Leadership for Lived-Living Experience roles

with Dr Louise Byrne and National and International Experts

“Evidence, strategy and persuasion: A practical approach to executive leadership and influence”

What's the value add?

Lived-Living Experience practitioners are being rapidly promoted to positions of senior and executive leadership, often without the prior work experience necessary to feel confident and effective in these roles.

For those who have developed greater knowledge and confidence over time, traditional corporate environments are still challenging due to the culture clash with Lived-Living Experience ways of viewing and doing.

This training assists in capacity-building LLE leaders to perform at an executive level, with confidence and fidelity to our disciplines. It's an investment in you, but also an investment in your contribution to systems change.

Feedback on this course

I'm really grateful to Lou and the team at LET for creating the Executive Leadership training. Having worked in senior Lived Experience Leadership roles for over 15 years, this is the first professional development opportunity I've found that is directly related to the roles I work in.

It's been incredible to learn directly from Louise and to develop and explore my own leadership style. It has deepened my knowledge of relational advocacy, research, and a highlight for me is being part of a national community of peers and learning from each other.

LET is shaping the future of Lived Experience leadership in Australia. I highly recommend.

Lisa Gott - Executive Director, Lived Experience Leadership, Flourish Australia

Some days in lived-experience roles are heavy. Systems are slow. Advocacy can feel uphill. The emotional labour is real. And then there are days like today.

I'm currently participating in Executive Leadership for Lived-Living Experience Roles with 'Lived Experience Training' — and I cannot overstate how energising this space is. Thank you so much Louise Byrne and team and my fellow participants.

To be with others who understand the nuance, the tension, the responsibility and the possibility of lived-experience leadership... it fills the cup in ways that are hard to describe.

Hayley Brown - Founder, Lived Impact

Incredibly humbled to have been a part of the training team for the elevator pitch session of Lived Experience Training's Executive Leadership for Lived-Living Experience Roles. This is exactly the kind of training I would have found incredibly valuable when I first started applying my lived expertise in leadership roles. Amazing people, incredible vibe, and really thought-provoking content. Thanks LET team for making it so.

Lorna Downes - Family/Carer Lived Experience Educator, Facilitator, Supervisor, Consultant and Researcher

Who is the training for?

Emerging and established Lived-Living Experience leaders:

- Working in or aiming to work in designated Lived-Living Experience senior leadership or executive positions
- People operating at high levels of potential influence and impact (irrespective of role position or type)

What's the focus?

This leadership offering is unique. We equip Lived-Living Experience leaders with the skills, knowledge, and strategic insight to work more confidently and effectively at executive or senior leadership levels of influence, by deepening understanding and practical skills to:

- Draw from a wide range of approaches and leadership models to think and act strategically with relevance to diverse situations
- Use and create evidence effectively to maximise impact
- Build and maintain robust alliances while firmly representing Lived-Living Experience values and principles
- Be an effective persuader and influence outcomes while still looking after ourselves.

You will be exposed to, trial and critically consider different approaches to leadership and advocacy, with a guided process of determining what is a natural fit for your default leadership approach, opportunities to expand areas of 'stretch', and rapidly assess and identify what is likely to work best in different situations or contexts.

Pre-requisites

To commence '*Executive Leadership for Lived-Living Experience Roles*' you will first need to complete the '*Orientation to Lived Experience for all staff*'. Click [here](#) to find out more about the orientation course. The cost of the *Orientation* course is built into the '*Executive Leadership*' training.

Who will be facilitating the sessions?

Your lead facilitator is:

- Dr Louise Byrne. In terms of demonstrating influence and impact, Louise is known for:
 - o Being the first full-time Lived-Living Experience academic in Australia
 - o Building a body of internationally applied research to guide effective and sustainable Lived-Living Experience workforce development
 - o Writing key national and state policies informed by that research
 - o Guiding implementation of research findings, including creating training and initiatives to progress recommendations of the research, including organisational, sector and statewide initiatives
 - o Helping shape the perspective of Lived-Living Expertise as respected, credible and evidence-based

To find out more about Louise, check out our ['About'](#) page.

Expert Presenters

Louise is joined by a cavalcade of well-known and highly regarded Lived-Living Experience experts who have a particular focus on Lived-Living Experience leadership models/styles. These experts provide opportunities to understand and trial their unique approaches and experiences. The group includes a variety of diverse perspectives and approaches.

Structure for Presentations

Instead of a traditional lecture with time for questions, in this training, there are two presentation styles:

- Content presenters provide a workshop style format with plenty of breakouts, discussion and other applied learning activities

- Panelists participate in robust discussion to provide a broad range of approaches for consideration

Presenters offer insights into their unique perspectives and approaches to advocacy and effective persuasion, outlining enablers and barriers they've faced, sharing from their personal story and showcasing an example of:

- when their approach worked and why - when their approach didn't work and why.

What does the training provide?

- Live group sessions with opportunities for group/peer networking and learning
- Hearing from a variety of top experts
- Formal scaffolding learning with an experiential approach to knowledge building
- Applied at-home learning activities including pre-reading
- Access to one-on-one mentoring/capacity-building sessions with Louise and expert presenters.

Modality

The course involves **13 x 2.5 – 3 hour live sessions over 12 months**, starting in October 2026 with a two-month hiatus during December and January. The sessions are hosted online to allow ease of attendance for a national cohort.

Participants provide some preferences to be matched for a mentoring session with one of the expert presenters during the course. This is included in the cost.

Structure of the Sessions

Information is presented in small blocks, with time to test and apply, gain feedback and integrate learning via a range of activities with an emphasis on experiential and applied learning.

What activities do the sessions include?

Position papers, case studies, role play, small and large group discussions, hot seat interviewing, expert panel discussions, modified 'shark tank' feedback sessions and other activities to test and gain feedback while trialing various approaches on how to create effective messaging and exert influence.

Content the course includes:

- Use and create 'evidence'
 - What gets counted as evidence in different settings
 - How to assess validity of different forms of evidence
 - How to elevate the work you do so it is considered 'empirical'
- Think and Behave Strategically
 - Demystifying strategy – you're already doing it, you're already good at it
 - Plan and approach from a stronger negotiating position
 - Experiences in 'hostile' environments are unpleasant but great training – how to leverage that learning
 - Understanding power and how it shapes systems, services and experiences
 - Understanding what power means for strategy
 - Using the policies and commitments that have already been agreed to gain leverage
- Stakeholder Management
 - Establishing expertise clearly and firmly (build credibility) while maintaining the Lived-Living Experience focus on a 'warm welcome'
 - Relationships first – engagement achieves more than 'teaching'
 - Good communication involves connection, meet people where they are before trying to take them somewhere new
- Build Alliances and Social Capital
 - Gaining 'buy-in', engagement and investment in Lived-Living Experience by using everything at our disposal

- Standing ground while maintaining positive relationships
- Sourcing effective support and building networks
- Using Appreciative Inquiry to reframe problems as possibilities
- Appreciating and pro-actively supporting intersectional leadership
- Productivity and Work Practice
 - Create maximum impact for minimum output
 - Setting and maintaining firm boundaries (while still getting lots done)
 - Separating work and life (although it's personal, we are not our work)
 - Our well-being and personal life as a priority (not an afterthought)

The sector has a responsibility

Due to the identified need for capacity development of Lived-Living Experience workforces, we are aiming for all seats in the training to be sponsored either by organisations looking to capacity build senior and emerging leaders as well as government departments and other major funders.

We also provide up to 2 bursaries, 1 full scholarship position for every 14 seats filled. Bursaries will be advertised on LinkedIn and key criteria include how you represent intersectional perspectives, the size of your employing organisation, your previous work experience, as well as your goals for participation in the course.

Cost

We encourage sponsorship of seats from organisations and funders. The total cost per person is \$5,500 (including GST) which includes:

- pre-requisite *'Orientation training'* self-paced course (*contains key advocacy messages for our workforces*)
- place in the *'Foundational Knowledge'* short course (*optional but recommended*)
- a place in the *'Executive leadership for Lived-Living Experience Roles'* course including 33+ hours of live class time and additional at-home activities and resources
- a one-on-one mentoring session with an expert in the field
- opportunities monthly to catch up with Louise
- ongoing access to the discussion board as part of the alumni network

Program Numbers

The program is capped at a maximum of 30 people to ensure opportunity for relationship building, deep engagement and focused discussions. A minimum of 15 people is required for the course to go ahead.

Additional Leadership Training Opportunities

We also have a similar, shorter course, *'Everyday Advocacy and Leadership Skills for LLE'* (*Everyday Advocacy*).

Using advocacy and leadership skills is an everyday part of all Lived-Living Experience work. Whether talking in a team meeting, navigating organisational change, or contributing to broader policy, we are, at our essence, change-makers. But few of us have supported opportunities to develop and enhance these skills.

'Everyday Advocacy' provides capacity building for Lived-Living Experience practitioners employed in any role and at any level of authority to enhance systemic advocacy and impact while maintaining authentic LLE practice and values. The approaches featured in *'Everyday Advocacy'* centre around learning from and with Dr Louise Byrne and Simon Katterl. These approaches are also included in the *'Executive Leadership'* offering.

'Executive Leadership' is more relevant to people who are:

- Working in or aiming to work in designated Lived-Living Experience senior leadership or executive positions

- Operating at high levels of potential influence and impact or aiming to do so (irrespective of role position or type)

The *'Executive Leadership'* course is more targeted and in-depth, emphasising exposure to and trialing a broad, diverse range of approaches and features many national and international experts in addition to Dr Louise Byrne.

Explaining the Eligibility Criteria

The goal of this training is to expose people to the most relevant knowledge to support capacity building at senior and executive leadership levels. A big emphasis of the training is peer-to-peer learning and building a network of support with folks facing similar experiences and challenges.

For the benefit of all participants, the more 'like' the positions - and as a result the more similar their experiences, the more relevant discussions and activities will be for all involved. If people's job experience and level of position are too different, it would diminish the relevance of the cohort in group learning and ongoing mutual support. Much like if people are variously employed in peer support and systemic advocacy positions, while there are definitely similarities, there are also significant differences in the roles and therefore what is needed to be successful in the roles.

Evidence Base and Intersectionality

Go to our [Learn More](#) section on the webpage and scroll down to find out about the Evidence Base that informed this training, including how diverse intersectional perspectives and specialist views were embedded in the research.

Sustainability

After the course concludes, participants will be invited to join an alumni network with access to a discussion board to enable ongoing networking and receive updates on future opportunities to connect.