



EFFECTIVELY PARTNERING WITH PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE OF SUICIDE

HOW TO: ensure power is equalised and shared

When power differences aren't named and owned, decision making remains wholly with traditional 'experts' and the existing power structures are maintained. As a result, established institutional practices that have been proven to be ineffective are reinforced and nothing changes. An organisation demonstrates its commitment to collaboration and power sharing by:

- adequately remunerating people with lived experience of suicide for their time, energy, and expertise;
- resourcing any capacity building support required for people with lived experience of suicide to be able to contribute to change processes in an effective and sustainable way;
- being considerate of where engagement activities take place to avoid asking someone to be in a place / building that may have been or represent places where harm and trauma has been experienced. eg hospital grounds, institutional offices. Ideally seek neutral ground where all stakeholders are guests in the venue.

This can include:

- training to prepare for co-design or service development activities;
- pre-briefing sessions so that people with lived experience have a thorough orientation to the initiative.
- providing a glossary of frequently used acronyms.