

2022 Match Summary

Name of Match: Military Issues

Location of Match: Virtual

1. Describe the **purpose** of the match: (Maximum 500 words)

The aim of this match was to connect in-service, NGO, academic and public health practitioners around the mental health of military personnel – serving and formerly serving.

The match was held over two days. Day one focusing on a systems perspective on mental health for veterans, and how it might be better integrated and managed to improve the experience of those within it. Day two was from a lived experience perspective and sought to hear the service member's voice in a military mental health system.

2. Describe the **leaders** who participated in the match (for example, were some of them peers, youth, family/caregivers, practitioners, policy makers, clinicians? Were they from community settings, government, NGOs, clinical settings?): (Maximum 500 words)

Attendees included the;

- The leaders of NGO's charged with providing mental health care to Military communities, and guiding practice.
- Leaders from within military mental health systems.
- Practitioners from within veteran and serving service provider organisations.
- Lived experience representatives.
- Academic researchers.

3. What do you see as the **game changer** for this match topic? (Game changer is defined as: a newly introduced element or factor that changes an existing situation or activity in a significant way.) (Max 500 words)

Game changers included:

- Recognition of the importance of military culture in service design and delivery.
- Awareness of the need to make the lived experience voice more pronounced in service design and delivery.
- Ideas about how to improve service integration, particularly for service members transitioning out of service.
- Innovative service delivery models that removed barriers to help seeking.

4. How will the match **support inclusion, resilience and growth** for this match topic and for the leaders who attended: (Maximum 500 words)

The match reinforced the commonality of challenges faced across the attending nations and contexts, despite our separation by distance. The reinforced to commonalities of military service. The connections made will enable practitioners to leverage the insights from other contexts as they design and deliver services for service members. Given the unique nature of military service, this ability to connect with researchers, practitioners, best practice clearinghouses, and lived experience representatives will enable service providers to feel like they are not alone in the challenges and to lean on the wisdom and strength of the international community.