

## **MATES Program: Through the Lens of Lived Experience and Suicide Prevention in the Workplace**

***Presented by Jorgen Gullestrup, PhD Candidate Deakin University.***

In 2006 a group of construction industry leaders were presented with a report documenting very high suicide rates in the Queensland construction industry in Australia. The industry decided to act and established an industry suicide prevention initiative later known as MATES in Construction. The industry decided to lead the initiative from an industry perspective, taking ownership of the issue and then reaching out for expert input when required. This presentation will describe the process of lived experience led co-design creating the MATES program; the MATES “Anger Hope Action” engagement model, the program elements, and the evaluation evidence for the program.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the importance of community led suicide prevention.
- Understand the importance of lived experience in program design and implementation.
- Understand the “Anger Hope Action” model of engagement.