

Position Description

Art Therapist

Classification:	AT57-AT59
Business unit/department:	Medical and Cancer Division Wellness and Supportive Care Program
Work location:	Austin Hospital ☒ Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital ☐ Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre ☐ Other ☐ (please specify)
Agreement:	Allied Health Professionals (Victorian Public Health Sector) Single Interest Enterprise Agreement 2021-2026 Choose an item. Choose an item.
Employment type:	Fixed-Term Part-Time
Hours per week:	24 hours (0.6FTE)
Reports to:	Operations Manager, Wellness and Supportive Care
Direct reports:	Nil
Financial management:	Budget: Internal budget
Date:	September 2025

Austin Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we operate, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung People of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Position purpose

The role aims to provide art therapy interventions for patients and families from a patient-centered interdisciplinary model. This is informed by the Austin Health framework that uses a patient-centred approach and has a professional ethos based on a strong culture of evidence-based practice, robust clinical governance and personal accountability for quality improvement and life-long continuing professional development.

The role is clinically/patient facing, providing both individual and group interventions, and will include a focus on clinical student supervision or other tasks as directed by the management.

About the Directorate/Division/Department

Medical and Cancer Service Division

Austin Health is one of the largest cancer service providers in Victoria. A complete range of services are delivered to patients and their families, including medical oncology, clinical haematology,

radiation oncology (Austin Health and BHS), cancer genetics, palliative care, wellness and supportive care programs, an active volunteer program and specialist cancer surgery (managed via a separate CSU). These are all provided in an environment that integrates research, teaching, and training.

All Austin Health metropolitan-based Cancer Services are now delivered within the Olivia Newton-John Cancer & Wellness (ONJ Centre) at the Austin Hospital. This state-of-the-art facility provides a new model of individualised cancer care for patients and their families.

Clinical Services are provided in a range of inpatient and ambulatory settings. Inpatient services include an acute oncology/clinical haematology ward, an oncology/surgical oncology ward and a palliative care ward. Ambulatory services include Radiation Oncology, Day Oncology, Apheresis, and multidisciplinary cancer clinics.

Wellness and Supportive Care

The integrated model of multidisciplinary care within Cancer Services relies on a dynamic, appropriately qualified, and skilled team to support patients undergoing care in both the Inpatient and Ambulatory settings, with a key focus on Integrated Wellness and Supportive Care.

Position responsibilities

The Grade 2 Art Therapist will work as part of the Wellness and Supportive Care Program as well as within the broader multidisciplinary team context. The Grade 2 Art Therapist will need to demonstrate sound experience in planning and delivering appropriate evidence-based art therapy interventions to patients and carers in oncology settings. Clinical work will include mainly outpatients providing both individualised and group art therapy.

The position involves:

- Being part of multi-disciplinary teams, liaison work, attending relevant team meetings/s
- Plan and deliver tailored, high quality, evidence-based Art therapy services to cancer patients and their careers, individually and within groups, and in collaboration with the Arts in Healthcare team.
- Actively participate and co-facilitate clinical placement student supervision
- Actively participate in weekly team meetings to raise the profile of the Arts Therapy program and generate referrals to all services.
- Accepts responsibility for professional self-development through review of own performance and identification of learning opportunities
- Make referrals to all other health disciplines as required.
- Co-facilitating programs where appropriate
- Maintain some involvement in policy and planning activities.
- Contribute to Quality Improvement projects.
- Engage in the evaluation of programs and service provision.
- Develop a yearly exhibition program for the ONJ Centre's exhibition space that is sensitive to cultural concerns of the ONJ Centre & consumer experience.

All Employees:

- Comply with Austin Health policies & procedures, as amended from time to time, which can be located on the intranet (The Hub): <http://eppic/>
- Report incidents or near misses that have or could have impact on safety - participate in identification and prevention of risks



**Our actions
show we care**



**We bring
our best**



**Together
we achieve**



**We shape
the future**

- Comply with the Code of Conduct

People Management Roles:

- Ensure clear accountability for quality and safety within the department.
- Ensure incident management systems are applied and a response to local issues and performance improvement occurs; ensure the risk management system is functional.
- Be aware of and comply with the core education, training and development policy.

Selection criteria

Essential skills and experience:

- A commitment to Austin Health values: Our actions show we care; We bring our best; Together we achieve; We shape the future.
- Minimum three years' art therapy clinical experience in a relevant area
- Experience in the delivery of evidence-based individual & group art therapy programs in a health setting.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and as part of multidisciplinary teams.
- Demonstrated organisational and time management skills including the ability to prioritise busy clinical workloads.
- Program development and evaluation experience
- Provision of supervision to Grade 1 employees and Master of Art Therapy students
- Willing to participate in regular clinical supervision
- Team player and ability to work with primary teams, medical, nursing, and allied health staff.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills relevant to service delivery and the ability to build rapport with clients & other health professionals.
- Demonstrated knowledge of contemporary methods principles and practice and skills across the relevant profession.

Desirable but not essential:

- Experience in managing art collections (records management, display & conservation of artworks; acquisition & commission of new art works).
- A sound understanding of information technology including clinical systems.
- Experience in art therapy in an oncology setting

Professional qualifications and registration requirements

- Completion of a Master of Art Therapy degree or equivalent
- Current "Professional" registration with ANZACATA

Quality, safety and risk – all roles

All Austin Health employees are required to:

- Maintain a safe working environment for yourself, colleagues and members of the public by following organisational safety, quality and risk policies and guidelines.



Our actions
show we care



We bring
our best



Together
we achieve



We shape
the future

- Escalate concerns regarding safety, quality and risk to the appropriate staff member, if unable to rectify yourself.
- Promote and participate in the evaluation and continuous improvement processes.
- Comply with the principles of person-centered care.
- Comply with requirements of National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards and other relevant regulatory requirements.

Other conditions – all roles

All Austin Health employees are required to:

- Adhere to Austin Health's core values: *our actions show we care, we bring our best, together we achieve, and we shape the future.*
- Comply with the Austin Health's Code of Conduct policy, as well as all other policies and procedures (as amended from time to time).
- Comply with all Austin Health mandatory training and continuing professional development requirements.
- Provide proof of immunity to nominated vaccine preventable diseases in accordance with Austin Health's immunisation screening policy.
- Work across multiple sites as per work requirements and/or directed by management.

General information

Cultural safety

Austin Health is committed to cultural safety and health equity for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People. We recognise cultural safety as the positive recognition and celebration of cultures. It is more than just the absence of racism or discrimination, and more than cultural awareness and cultural sensitivity. It empowers people and enables them to contribute and feel safe to be themselves.

Equal Opportunity Employer

We celebrate, value, and include people of all backgrounds, genders, identities, cultures, bodies, and abilities. We welcome and support applications from talented people identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, people with disability, neurodiverse people, LGBTQIA+ and people of all ages and cultures.

Austin Health is a child safe environment

We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. We want children to be safe, happy and empowered. Austin Health has zero tolerance for any form of child abuse and commits to protect children. We take allegations of abuse and neglect seriously and will make every effort to mitigate and respond to risk in line with hospital policy and procedures.



Our actions
show we care



We bring
our best



Together
we achieve



We shape
the future