

Position Description

Consultant Psychiatrist Youth Prevention and Recovery Centre

Classification:	Consultant Psychiatrist
Business unit/department:	ICYMHS, Mental Health Division
Work location:	Austin Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> (please specify)
Agreement:	AMA Victoria - Victorian Public Health Sector Medical Specialists Enterprise Agreement 2022-2026
Employment type:	Part-Time
Hours per week:	10.5
Reports to:	Clinical Director, Infant, Child and Youth Mental Health Service, Mental Health Division
Direct reports:	N/A
Financial management:	Budget: N/A
Date:	June 2025

Position purpose

To provide Consultant Psychiatric services to the Youth Prevention and Recovery Centre (YPARC) and the Mental Health Division (MHD) as directed/required. The Consultant Psychiatrist will work in partnership with the Centre Manager and the Centre's Therapeutic Specialists to ensure that services provided at the Centre are the highest standard, emphasizing excellence, service, care, staff performance, cost efficiency, research and education within a comprehensive clinical governance framework.

The Consultant Psychiatrist provides clinical leadership within the Mental Health Division of Austin Health and ensures compliance with:

- National Practice Standards for the Mental Health Workforce 2002
- National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Version 2019
- Austin Health Code of Conduct

And they will participate in on-call rosters, ECT rosters or other duties as required by Mental Health Division Medical Director or delegate.

The Consultant Psychiatrist is expected to provide high-level psychiatric services within their approved scope of clinical practice as part of the Mental Health Division at Austin Health and is

expected to provide routine specialist mental health services and cover “on call” after hours.

The Consultant Psychiatrist role is a senior Medical Position and carries with it the professional responsibilities of clinical leadership, teaching and training as well as administrative requirements.

Key Priorities

Leadership & Service Development

- Provide strategic leadership and clinical governance for the YPARC within the Austin Mental Health Division ICYMHS Directorate.
- Lead the development and enhancement of clinical services in collaboration with the Clinical Director, Consultant Psychiatrists, Program Managers, and Divisional Manager, in alignment with the priorities of the Victorian Mental Health Royal Commission – including consumer-focused recovery, accessibility, evidence-based and holistic care.

Clinical Care and Continuity

- Ensure delivery of high-quality acute assessment, care planning, and treatment in the least restrictive environment possible, guided by best practice and Royal Commission principles.
- Support and involve families and carers in treatment planning, ensuring age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate care.
- Observe, record, and report clinical changes in mental, physical, and social conditions.
- Ensure accurate, timely clinical documentation and compliance with the Mental Health Act and clinical governance standards.
- Attend Clinical Governance Meetings and other forums as required.

About the Directorate/Division/Department

Austin Health’s Mental Health Division provides care and services through a comprehensive range of teams to meet the needs of mental health consumers and carers throughout Victoria. Services in the MH Division are located across Austin Health and in the community.

The Mental Health Division incorporates three program areas:

- **Adult Mental Health Services**
- **Infant, Child and Youth Mental Health Services**
- **Mental Health Specialty Services**

All Mental Health Services work within a clinical framework that promotes recovery- oriented practice and supported decision making. This approach to client wellbeing builds on the strengths of the individual working in partnership with their treating team. It encompasses the principles of self-determination and individualised treatment and care.

Infant Child and Youth Mental Health Service

The ICYMHS is a service with multiple teams servicing the north-eastern catchment of Melbourne Metropolitan (local government areas of Banyule, Nillumbik, Darebin, Whittlesea, Yarra and Boroondara). Young people eligible for the service are 0 to 25 years with a current shift towards Royal Commission recommendations. We currently have two inpatient units (a child and an adolescent one) and a Child and Family Centre, five outpatient community teams, five specialist teams (Adolescent Intensive Management, Youth Early Psychosis, Autism Spectrum Disorder Assessment Program, Youth Brief Intervention Service, Specialist Eating Disorders Service), an under 25 CATT team and some individual specialist roles. Many of the specialist teams have an outreach focus to the community.



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Youth Prevention and Recovery Centre

YPARC will provide a 10-bed residential facility and provides short term (up to 28 days) recovery focused mental health treatment for those aged 16 – 25 years living in North East Mental health service (NEMHS). YPARC is managed in partnership with Mind Australia and is a voluntary program that provides interventions to consumers who:

- Require a Step-Up service: short term intensive support to prevent deterioration in their mental health and possibly avoid a hospital admission.
- Require a Step-Down service: no longer need to be in a psychiatric hospital but would benefit from short term intensive support before returning to their home.

The YPARC's Model of Care has been drawn from the Victorian State Government Statewide Framework for YPARC's and has been developed in local working groups. YPARC will provide high-quality 24 hour mental health care in a youth friendly and 'home-like' setting. YPARC is a strong collaboration with NGO partners MIND and will be run with Austin and MIND staff. YPARC will provide thorough clinical, psychosocial and peer support through individual support and group programs. YPARC will assist young people to establish links to primary health and community based supports that enable individuals to build resilience and capacity to self-manage factors that contribute to mental illness.

Essential to the work at YAPRC is collaboration with young people and carers to ensure that YPARC is a youth focused and person centered, that YPARC is inclusive, developmentally appropriate and service is delivered in a respectful, flexible approach that is responsive to the preferences, needs and values of the young person.

Partnership with Mind Australia

Austin Health's ICYMHS Mental Health Service and Mind Australia have developed a collaborative partnership to enable young people at YPARC to receive both clinical treatment and active support for their recovery in safe and supportive settings. YPARC offers a combination of recovery focused specialist clinical and community mental health services, using the expertise of Austin Health and Mind Australia in a formal partnership model.

Mind is a leading community managed specialist mental health service provider. Mind has been supporting people dealing with the day-to-day impacts of mental illness, as well as their families, friends and carers for 40 years. The organisation provides practical and motivational support that helps people develop the skills they need to move on, thrive improve the quality of their lives.

Position responsibilities

Role Specific:

- To provide comprehensive and high quality evidence based psychiatric services to young consumers in the YPARC at Austin Health
- To undertake collaborative clinical services, governance and teaching and supervisory duties as agreed with the ICYMHS Clinical Director of MH Division.
- To work closely with ICYMHS Program Managers and provide clinical governance and leadership to YPARC within the Austin Mental Health Division ICYMHS Directorate.
- To provide expert clinical leadership, ensuring clinical safety and quality processes within the YPARC services in ICYMHS align with the vision and functioning of the Austin Mental Health Division and to participate in safety and quality systems in Austin Health more generally.
- To provide consistent clinical governance, oversight and leadership to all staff within the YPARC clinical services, especially high quality leadership and strong care for the medical practitioners working in the service, to ensure they are able to deliver high quality clinical care. To provide clinical cover, clinical care and coordination of clinical services within ICYMHS as needed.
- To provide medical workforce and wellbeing leadership and coordination to all medical



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practitioners in the YPARC clinical services and as delegate for the Clinical Director ICYMHS as required.

- To provide medical leadership for physical health aspects of mental health care in the YPARC clinical services in ICYMHS.
- To participate in all aspects of clinical governance in the YPARC clinical services and ICYMHS as needed and to ensure high standards of clinical work, medical documentation, quality processes, compliance with the Mental Health Act and management of complaints and feedback.
- To share equitably in on-call duties.

Leadership and Management

(Role of the governing body, leadership & direction)

- To provide secondary and tertiary consultation to other professionals providing services to people with mental illness within the Division.
- Participate in education sessions.
- Participate in professional activities outside Austin Health.
- Comply with the profession's Code of Ethics.
- Function in accordance with Legislation affecting psychiatric practice.
- Use and promote effective communication and interpersonal skills.
- Act to rectify unsafe practice or unprofessional conduct.
- Maintain current professional knowledge and skills.

Human Resources Management

(Includes recruitment, performance management, workplace relations, staff support)

- To supervise the work of registrars and HMO's of the service and be available to them for consultation as necessary.
- Ensure that all staff are familiar with Occupational Health and Safety requirements and regulations.
- To be familiar with emergency, fire and evacuation procedures and policies.

Information Management

(Includes information management practices, systems, information technology)

- To ensure there is adequate documentation on patient care and in particular ensure diagnoses are recorded, management plans and discharge plans are completed on in- patients and treatment plans are developed and regularly updated in regard to community patients
- Ensure that all access to and knowledge of confidential material, including statutory, clinical and administrative, in any medium, is kept and maintained by all staff in a confidential manner, on the understanding that inappropriate and unapproved release of such information may result in termination of employment.
- Complete documentation in accordance with Austin Health MH Division, Austin Health requirements and Mental Health Act 1986.
- To ensure that all aspects of service are compliant with MHA.
- Assist in identifying gaps in the service system.
- Communicate, interpret and ensure Psychiatric Services philosophy, objectives, policies and procedures are implemented.
- Participate in the formulation and periodic review of Psychiatric Service policies and procedures.
- Participate in the development, implementation and evaluation of Quality Improvement Activities.
- Attend meetings as requested.
- Regularly report on the performance of all functions.



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Safe Practice and Environment

(includes Health & Safety systems)

- Promote maintenance of a safe environment for all consumers and staff in accordance with hospital policy.
- Ensure all members of staff are familiar with Occupational Health and Safety requirements and regulations.
- Take reasonable steps to safeguard consumers, other staff and members of the public from infection and be familiar with the concepts of hospital infection control policies.
- Ensure adequate medications, supplies and equipment are available, maintained and utilised economically.
- Understand hospital emergency, fire and evacuation procedures and policies.

Improving Performance:

(In care and service delivery)

- To develop collaborative relationships with other service providers to ensure the best outcomes for people with mental illness.
- To participate in educational programs of the service, including community education.
- To provide formal teaching for trainee psychiatrists and medical students and be involved in Austin Health's training programs.
- To ensure that clinical and experimental research is ethically conducted.
- Attend relevant education programs, maintaining a commitment to personal and professional development.
- Complete personal objectives annually, or as requested.
- Promote an atmosphere which is conducive to learning for staff, patients/carers, relatives and significant others.
- Actively promote and participate in quality improvement activities by initiating and conducting relevant activities and taking action to ensure best possible outcomes for patients and the organisation.
- Identify opportunities for review of practices/patient care and initiate best practice ideals.

Performance Appraisal/Review:

- Review of appointment will occur at three months.
- 12 monthly on anniversary of appointment.
- Appraisal/review shall incorporate the assessment of Key Priorities and Performance Objectives.
- Performance shall be generally in line with guidelines of:
 - Austin Health Policies and Procedures
 - National Standards for Mental Health Clinicians

Teaching, Training and Research:

- Contribute to the supervision, education and training of junior medical, nursing and other clinical staff, including participating in their performance appraisal and feedback processes.
- Participate in both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching activities.
- Commitment to facilitate, conduct and participate in clinical and/or basic research.
- Participate in the auditing and review of clinical practices to improve clinical outcomes.

Credentialing and Scope of Clinical Practice

Core Scope of Clinical Practice – Procedures, therapies and competencies that a Fellow from the respective specialist medical college would be competent in practicing. This only applies to practice at Austin Health and its campuses.



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All Psychiatrists should be competent in the following areas.

Theoretical/Patient Management Skills

- Demonstrate an empathic approach to the assessment of all people with mental health problems and mental illness, which fosters the formation of a therapeutic alliance.
- Elicit thorough and relevant histories from people with mental health problems and mental illness, perform comprehensive mental status examinations and document these accurately.
- Assess accurately situations where the level of disturbance is severe and risk of adverse events, such as injury to self or others, may be high.
- Assess the person's presentation in the context of his/her personality, developmental stage, resilience and coping mechanisms.
- Take account of the person's indigenous or ethnic and cultural background.
- Determine which further investigations are appropriate for achieving a comprehensive understanding of each person with mental health problems and mental illness.
- Integrate the information obtained from people with mental health problems and mental illness and carers into a formulation of the case in which relevant predisposing as well as precipitating, perpetuating and protective factors are highlighted.
- Utilise a widely accepted diagnostic system to assist in making the diagnosis (and differential diagnosis) in each case.
- Recognise the specific issues in the assessment of people with mental health problems and mental illness related to the utilisation of the Mental Health Act Victoria.
- Develop and implement a clear, competent care plan, informed by research and current best practice, integrating biological, psychological, social and cultural interventions according to the needs of each person with mental health problems and mental illness.
- Routinely re-evaluate diagnostic and management decisions to monitor their appropriateness and thus ensure optimal care.
- Appropriately obtain and document informed consent for treatment whenever possible.
- Offer treatment in the most appropriate setting for the individual concerned, utilising the least restrictive option for that person.
- Use humanely the provisions for involuntary hospitalization and treatment, mindful of the major implications of such hospitalization for the person with mental health problems and mental illness and his/her carers.
- Develop skills in establishing and maintaining a therapeutic alliance.
- Recognise and apply the principles of long-term care and rehabilitation for those people with chronic mental health problems.
- Use knowledge of the implications of co-existing medical illness to modify treatment appropriately.
- Recognise and utilise the contributions of non-medical professionals in the care of people with mental health problems and mental illness, and collaborate effectively with these professionals to provide optimal care.
- Demonstrate a finely developed ability to communicate clearly, considerately and sensitively with people with mental health problems and mental illness, carers, other health professionals and members of the general public, in a wide variety of settings.
- Use professional interpreters appropriately.
- Keep adequate records of the history and mental status of each person with mental health problems and mental illness, as well as of significant interactions with people with mental health problems and mental illness, carers, and other professionals.
- Where possible, work with people with mental health problems and mental illness, and carers, to develop a collaborative management plan.
- Demonstrate leadership skills in settings where clinical direction is required.
- Demonstrate skills appropriate for taking on a supervisory role with students, junior colleagues or other professionals seeking supervision in psychiatry.
- Develop skills necessary to elicit and assess the perspectives of people with mental health



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problems and mental illness and carers on psychiatric services delivery, including, where appropriate, skills facilitating empowerment of people with mental health problems and mental illness.

- Develop skills necessary to work in a multidisciplinary environment.
- Develop skills necessary to liaise with non-psychiatrist doctors and other health care professionals in the management of physical/psychiatric comorbidity.

This will be assumed if the Psychiatrist has a Fellowship of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists or equivalent and an ongoing continuous practice in this specialty.

Extended Scope of Clinical Practice – Procedures, therapies and competencies that a Fellow from the respective specialist medical college would be competent in practicing after additional training, qualifications and experience as determined by the Head of Unit* has been completed. This only applies to practice at Austin Health and its campuses.

*The Head of Unit is expected to apply guidelines from the respective specialist medical college and appropriate state, national and international guidelines.

- **ECT** - All Psychiatrists should complete an approved training course including supervised treatments of ECT before providing ECT themselves. Documentation of Psychiatrists approved to provide ECT is maintained by the ECT coordinator. All Psychiatrists employed by the MH Division may be required to participate in the on- call ECT roster.
- Infant, Child & Youth Psychiatry
- Psychiatry of Old Age
- Consultation Liaison Psychiatry
- Addiction Psychiatry

Emergency/Life threatening situation – In a medical emergency situation, any medical staff member who is credentialed at Austin Health is permitted to provide necessary patient care, as best able, and outside their defined scope of clinical practice in order to provide life-saving measures and/or to prevent serious harm.

Please note – Recognising the dynamic and rapidly advancing nature of medical practice, if you believe a novel competence, practice or procedure should be included within your specialty's scope of clinical practice, please speak to your Head of Unit and refer to the 'Introduction of a New Technology / Clinical Practice' policy on the HUB (<http://eppic//Document/1193>).

For general accreditation the following need to be satisfied

- Demonstrated continuing professional development
- Regular attendance at audit
- Participation in one or more of the following
 - Teaching or research
 - Organising audit
 - Clinical governance
 - Other role within Austin Health but outside of the unit/specialty
 - College role

For each area where special expertise needs to be demonstrated. Some or all of the following criteria will be used to assess accreditation

- Specialist training or a specific fellowship
- Significant accumulated total experience in the field
- Recent experience (adequate number of cases per year in previous years)
- Satisfactory completion of an acceptable outside organisations credentialing requirements.



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Selection criteria

Qualifications and Registration

- Must be a registered Medical Practitioner in Australia with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).
- Fellowship of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists or equivalent postgraduate specialist qualification.
- RANZCP Certificate of Advanced Training in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, or suitable training and experience in youth mental health.
- Must hold a current Working with Children Check (WWC Check) in compliance with the Working with Children Act 2005.

Clinical Knowledge and Experience

- Demonstrated experience in a range of liaison psychiatry settings, including in-reach to emergency departments.
- Experience in providing services to people with serious mental illness.
- Detailed knowledge of triage and access systems to tertiary mental health services.
- Understanding of child protection legislation and responsibilities.
- Knowledge of the Mental Health Act 2014 and other relevant legislation including the Child, Youth and Families Act 2005, Privacy Act 1988, UNICEF Convention on the Rights of the Child, Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2017, and the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004.
- Training in, or willingness to complete training in, Mentalization-Based Treatment for children, families, and teams.
- Commitment to Quality Care and Governance
- Demonstrated commitment to high quality, patient-centred care.
- Understanding of, and commitment to, Clinical Governance.
- Commitment to community-based care models and support for families.
- Demonstrated understanding of, and alignment with, Austin Health's Reconciliation Action Plan.

Teaching, Supervision and Continuous Improvement

- Demonstrated ability to provide high-quality supervision and teaching to other mental health professionals.
- Involvement in teaching and training of medical, technical and nursing staff, including undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- Commitment to continuing education, clinical audit and/or research activities.
- Attendance and active participation in relevant departmental, organisational and external meetings (e.g. College, Association, national/international bodies).

Interpersonal Skills and Teamwork

- Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively at all levels.
- Proven engagement in teamwork and collaboration across multidisciplinary teams.

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.
- 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.



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- 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.



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