

Position Description

Occupational Therapist Grade 2

Classification:	Occupational Therapist, Grade 2
Business unit/department:	Acute Psychiatric Unit, Mental Health Division
Work location:	Austin Hospital <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> (please specify)
Agreement:	Victorian Public Mental Health Services Enterprise Agreement 2020-2024
	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.
Employment type:	Part-Time
Hours per week:	26.6 hours
Reports to:	Nurse Unit Manager
Direct reports:	n/a
Financial management:	Budget: n/a
Date:	July 2025

Position purpose

The Occupational Therapist/ Grade 2 (OT2) is accountable to the Nurse Unit Manager (NUM) of the Acute Psychiatric Unit (APU) and will work collaboratively with the broader Mental Health staff and teams.

The Occupational Therapist will work primarily in the Acute Psychiatric Unit providing occupational therapy services to the patient and carer group, and multidisciplinary team. The APU is co located with the Eating Disorders Unit and a Mental Health Perinatal Infant Unit.

The Occupational Therapist will contribute specialist knowledge and skill to the multidisciplinary team in providing recovery focus care to the acute patient group. They will provide direct clinical services that are evidence-based and also be involved in service development. The position will work within the multi-disciplinary team under the direction of the NUM.

There will be an expectation that the Occupational Therapist will provide supervision to the Occupational Therapy graduates within the team.

The OT will also have a role in supporting the capacity of the APU multidisciplinary team to navigate and deliver on consumer outcomes related to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Working as part of a multidisciplinary team, the APU OT provides psychosocial assessments and assists in developing long term recovery interventions for clients and their family. This role will also be responsible for implementation and evaluation of a therapeutic group program.

About the Directorate/Division/Department

The 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 are located across Austin Health campuses and in the community.

All mental health services work within a clinical framework that promotes recovery-oriented practice and supports 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 individualized treatment and care.

The adult unit has 19 beds which provide inpatient services to people over 18 years of age who have an acute psychiatric disorder requiring specialist intervention for assessment and treatment. The Unit has a strong integration with mental health community-based services supporting continuity of recovery-focused care.

The Eating Disorder Program is a 5 bed statewide service offering treatment for those with a severe and enduring eating disorder. It is partnership with St Vincents Hospital who provides the community outpatient support.

Position responsibilities

- Provide Specialist Occupational Therapy Assessment and Intervention services for consumers within the Adult Psychiatric Unit
- Provide an occupational therapy perspective and consultation to the multidisciplinary team and key stake holders.
- Undertake comprehensive mental state, risk assessments, functional and psychosocial assessments of clients.
- Initiate, implement, and evaluate individual and group-based interventions as part of a multidisciplinary team.
- Support and supervise Occupational Therapy students and Occupational Therapy graduates.
- Participate in professional development/training and discipline specific supervision.
- Provide support to family, carers and other works on the unit to support clients to attend and engage in rehabilitation activities and individual programs.
- Participate as a member of the multidisciplinary team in the ward rounds, clinical review meetings, and other clinical meetings, and maintain clinical records.
- Identify family, cultural or gender specific issues and assimilate these issues when formulating individual psychosocial rehabilitation programs.



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- Contribute to policy development, planning, monitoring and evaluation of service delivery and research related endeavours.
- To engage community services via the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) as required
- Actively participate in supervision as per the departmental protocols
- Utilizes opportunities to increase professional knowledge and skill base and promotes this culture in the department
- Other duties as required

Collaborative and Therapeutic Practice

- Establishes, maintains and appropriately concludes therapeutic relationships recognizing professional boundaries;
- Communicates and collaborates effectively with others to facilitate the provision of care;
- Demonstrates respect for cultural, psychosocial, spirituality of individuals;
- Utilizes the resources of the organization responsibly in a cost-effective manner;
- Prioritizes safety by Identifying or preventing environmental hazards where possible.
- Maintains standards for infection control;
- Participates in annual mandatory competencies required by the organization;
- Adheres to occupational health and safety legislation and the Austin Health Code of Conduct;

Professional Practice

- Practices within own scope of practice in accordance with legislation;
- Recognizes and responds appropriately to unsafe or unprofessional practice;
- Practices within a professional and ethical framework in accordance with the policies of the organization;
- Acts as an advocate for patients within organizational and management structures of Austin Health;
- Participates in the ongoing professional development of self and others accepting responsibility for own learning;
- Supports the development of others by acting as a resource to colleagues, participating in orientating and support of new staff and students;
- Provide supervision and mentoring to the Occupational Therapist Grade 1 on the unit.

Credentialing and Scope of Clinical Practice

n/a



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Selection criteria

Essential skills and experience:

- Demonstrated ability to develop, implement and evaluate individual and group based therapeutic programs for people with severe psychiatric disorders and complex needs.
- A demonstrated commitment to the care of adults and their families with complex health issues in the least restrictive and intrusive manner, respecting their rights, privacy, dignity, and self-respect.
- Commitment to ongoing skill development, teamwork, and professional development Commitment to applying a consumer centered and recovery focused approach on the care of people with mental illness.
- Demonstrated knowledge of the Mental Health Act and recovery-oriented practice. Well-developed interpersonal and communication skills, and the ability to work well in a multidisciplinary team.
- Demonstrated awareness and participation in quality improvement processes within the service
- Demonstrated ability to prioritize tasks effectively to meet deadlines and an awareness of when to seek assistance and support as required.
- Demonstrated ability to work autonomously, problem solve and self-manage competing demands.
- Current Victorian Driver License.

Desirable but not essential:

- Demonstrated experience and skills in sub-acute assessment and management of people with a serious mental illness and eating disorder
- Experience in working with consumers with multiple and complex needs including forensic histories dual disability and problematic alcohol and other drug use.
- Knowledge or understanding of NDIS and complex hospital discharge pathways. Previous experience in inpatient unit settings. Dual diagnosis experience & skills.
- Competent computer skills particularly in word processing and Internet use and the ability to learn dedicated system.

Professional qualifications and registration requirements

- An approved degree from a recognised school of Occupational Therapy
- Registration with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency., under the Health Practitioner regulations National Law Act 9 2009)

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.
- Comply with requirements of National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards and other relevant regulatory requirements.



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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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