

Position Description

Rheumatology Consultant

Classification:	Medical Specialist
Business unit/department:	Department of Rheumatology - Specialty & Statewide Services
Work location:	Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital
Agreement:	AMA Victoria - Victorian Public Health Sector Medical Specialists Enterprise Agreement 2022-2026
	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.
Employment type:	Fixed-Term Part-Time
Hours per week:	3.5
Reports to:	Dr Lionel Schachna
Direct reports:	N/A
Financial management:	Budget
Date:	June 2025

Position purpose

The primary objective of this role is to provide a professional, patient-focused consultancy service within the Rheumatology department.

About the Rheumatology Department

The Rheumatology Unit at Austin Health is a busy Unit providing both in-and out-patient services including Telehealth. It is staffed by the Head of Unit supported by a team of VMO's, junior medical and nursing staff. The Unit has a breadth of expertise and experience, in particular, in autoimmune diseases, ankylosing spondylitis, polymyalgia rheumatica and vasculitis as well as musculoskeletal ultrasound. The Unit has the longest standing autoimmune diseases outpatient clinic in Victoria providing both a diagnostic role together with a valuable support function for other clinical units in hospital. The Unit currently sees approx. 1000 inpatients and 6000 outpatients per annum.

The Unit prides itself in the level of teaching and clinical research activity supported within the department.

Position responsibilities

Provide comprehensive management of outpatients.

- Provide a consultative service to other Units as required.
- Supervise trainees and junior medical staff.
- To assist the Director in administrative duties as required including the development and review of policies and procedures for the provision of services, updating as needed to reflect best practice and evidence-based medicine.
- To assist in the evaluation of the delivery of services and in implementing appropriate quality and risk management initiatives.
- Demonstrate a commitment to working as a team member with peer medical, junior medical, nursing and other clinical staff to provide efficient, safe and quality care across the continuum.

Selection criteria

Essential Knowledge and skills:

- A commitment to Austin Health values
- Must be a registered Medical Practitioner in Australia with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)
- Hold a Fellowship of the Australasian College of Dermatologists.
- Have appropriate training and experience applicable to undertake the defined scope of practice.
- Demonstrated commitment to high quality patient care.
- Demonstrated commitment and ongoing activity in research and/or clinical audit activities
- Involvement in teaching and training of medical, technical and nursing staff, including at undergraduate and post-graduate level
- Attendance and active involvement in relevant departmental, organisational and external meetings (i.e. College, Association and National/International bodies)
- Demonstrates engagement, teamwork and collaboration.
- Have a demonstrated ability to communicate effectively at all levels.
- Have a demonstrated understanding of, and commitment to Clinical Governance.

Desirable but not essential:

- A sound understanding of information technology including clinical systems

Professional qualifications and registration requirements

- A tertiary qualified and registered Medical Practitioner with AHPRA
- RACP Fellowship in the speciality of Rheumatology
- Appropriate Medical Indemnity



Our actions
show we care



We bring
our best



Together
we achieve



We shape
the future

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.

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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