

Position Description

Position Title: Allied Health Worker, Spinal Community Integration Service

Classification:	Physiotherapist OR Occupational Therapist OR Vocational Therapist, Grade 2
Business unit/department:	Spinal Community Integration Service
Work location:	Austin Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> (please specify)
Agreement:	Allied Health Professionals (Victorian Public Health Sector) Single Interest Enterprise Agreement 2021-2026
Employment type:	Fixed Term Full-Time or Part-Time
Hours per week:	38 hours
Reports to:	Manager, Spinal Community Services
Direct reports:	0
Financial management:	Budget: 0
Date:	December, 2025

Position purpose

The Physiotherapist/ Occupational Therapist/Vocational Therapist in this role will work in the Spinal Community Integration Service (SCIS). They will work within the interdisciplinary team, to support clients who have new Spinal Cord Injuries (SCI) to transition into the community, following a period of inpatient rehabilitation. They will provide expert physiotherapy/ occupational therapy/vocational consultancy to support both the client directly and build capacity within their support network.

About Spinal Community Services and The Victorian Spinal Cord Service

The Victorian Spinal Cord Service (VSCS) is a specialised state-wide service that provides lifelong care to people who sustain a traumatic SCI in Victoria, Tasmania and southern New South Wales. Inpatient services are provided at the Austin and Royal Talbot campuses of Austin Health. The VSCS also includes the Spinal Community Services (SCS), which includes the following:

- SCIS,
- Spinal Outreach Service (SOS),
- Spinal Urology Service
- Spinal Outpatients Physiotherapy

SCIS is based at the Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre and provides community-based consultation to spinal cord injured clients from both Austin and Alfred Health, across Victoria. Community based intervention may include working with the client in their own home, with a community service provider, in their local community, at their workplace, or in a recreational facility.

The aim of SCIS is to improve community integration and quality of life outcomes for Victorians with a SCI, whilst also empowering these individuals to live independently. The team will work with clients:

- To minimise barriers to community integration including work and other life roles.
- To enable optimal independence and self-management in the community setting.
- Within a goal directed approach supporting an efficient and effective transition from sub-acute (rehabilitation) to the community setting.
- Within the local community to optimise opportunities for community participation.
- To support adjustment to SCI through an individualised approach.

SCIS will aim to achieve the above objectives through:

- provision of specialised, interdisciplinary intervention for up to one year following discharge from the sub-acute inpatient setting
- consultation, information, and education to build capacity within existing community services
- provision of flexible, innovative services based on the individual needs of the client
- working within the principles of social inclusion and community participation

Position responsibilities

Liaison Worker

In addition to discipline specific work, this position involves being a Liaison Worker for SCIS clients. This role is a fundamental component of the service, with all clients allocated a Liaison Worker. This is a key role, with the following responsibilities:

- Assisting the inpatient team with discharge planning
- Facilitating and coordinating the optimal community integration for SCIS clients
- Assisting the client with community integration goal setting and review
- Educating the client regarding their injury and available services
- Assisting the client to access local services
- Supporting community providers with high level SCI knowledge
- Educating community providers on certain SCI topics
- Empowering clients to live independently by the end of their SCIS episode

Clinical

Work as part of an interdisciplinary team and in collaboration with inpatient and ambulatory teams and community agencies to provide therapy services through three stages:



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- Undertake necessary assessment and planning with client and team to identify relevant community integration goals. Undertake referral and support to community service providers as appropriate.
- Provide community based physiotherapy or occupational therapy or vocational therapy consultation in conjunction with team that supports the objectives of SCIS. Specifically, this may include review of physical health and equipment, liaison and collaboration with community based providers, community based mobility training and advice, pressure care management, Community ADL training, carer training
- Provide consultation and education to community based service providers that builds capacity, remains goal oriented and works towards optimal community integration.
- Be abreast of best practice guidelines and current research to help facilitate knowledge translation and evidence based activity in spinal cord injury.

Administration / Training and Development

- Participate in relevant meetings within their discipline and the VSCS.
- Actively engage in understanding and development of SCIS philosophy around social inclusion and community participation.
- Actively participate in all program related training and development.
- Document client management accurately and appropriately.
- Contribute to the development and review of clinical procedures and protocols.
- Actively participate in evaluation activities.
- Undertake other professional development opportunities as appropriate.
- Maintain statistics.

Selection Criteria

Essential skills and experience:

- Clinical experience in SCI in order to carry out position specific requirements

Desirable but not essential:

- Experience in the supervision and support of staff in the allied health setting
- Vocational Experience

Skills:

- Proven communication and interpersonal skills
- Motivated and enthusiastic about work, with a client centred approach to care delivery
- Ability to problem solve in a variety of situations including complex patient care
- Ability to identify and engage with possible community resources
- Demonstrated organisational and time management skills
- Willingness to work as part of a team and individually
- A commitment to professional development



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- Ability to recognise service areas requiring improvement and to work proactively to bring about change, through quality improvement and research activities

Professional qualifications and registration requirements

- Bachelor of Physiotherapy or Occupational Therapy (or equivalent)
- AHPRA registration
- Evidence of a current driver's license and willingness to drive for work related activities.
- A commitment to Austin Health Values: our actions show we care, together we achieve, we bring our best, 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



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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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