

Position Description

Senior Clinical or Forensic Psychologist

Classification:	Psychologist Grade 3 (Clinical or Forensic endorsement)
Business unit/department:	Secure Extended Care Unit (SECU) 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 Health Sector (Medical Scientists, Pharmacists and Psychologists) Single Enterprise Agreement 2021-2025
Employment type:	Part-Time
Hours per week:	0.6 EFT (22.8 hours)
Reports to:	Operational: Nurse Unit Manager, SECU Professional: Director of Psychology, Mental Health Division
Direct reports:	N/A
Financial management:	N/A
Date:	July 2025

Position purpose

The Senior Clinical or Forensic Psychologist will provide leadership as a specialist psychology resource to the Secure Extended Care Service (SECU). The incumbent will provide discipline specific interventions and support for people with complex emotional, behavioural and mental health difficulties, and their family /carers. This will include assessment and formulation along with the provision of evidence-based psychotherapeutic interventions within a collaborative, recovery-focused model of care.

Additionally, the Senior Clinical / Forensic Psychologist will work collaboratively with the broader Mental Health Division staff and teams. The incumbent will provide supervision to psychologists within the Division, as well as graduate psychologists and psychology students completing placements aligned with their specialist endorsement. Psychologists across the Mental Health Division are connected through peer supervision supports, along with independent professional supervision overseen by the Director of Psychology.

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.

The Mental Health Division incorporates three program areas:

- Adult and Older Person's Mental Health Services
- Infant, Child and Youth Mental Health Services
- Mental Health Specialty Services

The Mental Health Division works within a clinical framework that promotes recovery-oriented practice and supported decision making. This approach to consumer 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.

The **Secure Extended Care Unit (SECU)** is a 25-bed facility providing secure inpatient treatment and care for people with severe symptomatology and associated behavioural disturbance, who require an extended period of sustained treatment and rehabilitation in a contained environment. SECU clients are typically difficult to engage in treatment with behaviours that, in the absence of a stable, structured environment, can put themselves and / or the community at risk.

Position responsibilities

Role Specific:

- Provide comprehensive clinical or forensic psychological assessment, formulation, evidence-based interventions, consultation and education to support consumers, families, carers and other professionals and agencies.
- Provide expert consultation on psychological related issues, specialist assessment outcomes and strategies to external agencies as appropriate.
- Provide patient-centred risk assessments, safety plans and behaviour management plans in the provision of care.
- Demonstrate senior leadership through initiating, planning, implementing and evaluating clinical / forensic psychology services in consultation with consumers and the multidisciplinary team.
- Engage in clinical reasoning, using a patient centred approach, within multidimensional assessments, formulating appropriately targeted treatment plans with realistic achievable goals and selecting the most appropriate option for implementation.
- Contribute clinical / forensic psychological expertise to team clinical reviews, meetings, handovers and case conferences.
- Engage with and support community services to facilitate effective admission and discharge planning, including linking with referral networks.
- Proactively involve family / carers and service system supports in the provision of care.
- Actively promote and develop positive relationships within the service, health sector and community that promote appropriate service delivery and patient care.
- Display a clear understanding of the principle of recovery orientated practice and its implementation within a clinical inpatient setting.



Our actions
show we care



We bring
our best



Together
we achieve



We shape
the future

- Deliver relevant family violence practice according to allocated responsibility level. This aligns with the Multi-Agency Risk assessment and Management (MARAM) Framework, the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVIS) and Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS) legislative requirements and related Austin Health guidelines, and
- Apply a thorough knowledge and understanding of relevant legislation.

Professional Practice:

- Provide supervision for other psychologists, including graduate psychologists and psychology students completing clinical or forensic placements aligned with specialist endorsement.
- Build and contribute to knowledge in Clinical or Forensic Psychology through teaching, research and mentoring within the Mental Health Division.
- Demonstrate flexibility and responsiveness within professional practice to meet organisational goals and priorities.
- Support the Director of Psychology in a range of activities including department planning and development, strategic planning and policy development within the Mental Health Division.
- Participate in supervision, peer support and networking activities.
- Participate in performance appraisals.
- Maintain appropriate statistics, case notes and records.
- Participate in psychology discipline meetings.
- Undertake ongoing professional development, education and training to ensure clinical / forensic practice is current and evidence based.
- Ensure consumer care standards meet professional, organisational, legal and ethical requirements.

Selection criteria

Essential skills and experience:

- A minimum of 5 years professional experience as a Psychologist Grade 2.
- Demonstrated experience working collaboratively, effectively and efficiently within inpatient and / or community adult mental health settings and / or forensic settings.
- Demonstrated ability to work with consumers with complex presentations and comorbidities who may be difficult to engage.
- Demonstrated skills to provide clinical and / or forensic psychological assessments and interventions for adults with complex emotional, behavioural and mental health difficulties who may also have co-morbid medical and neurodevelopmental conditions.
- Demonstrated skills in developing behaviour management plans based on current evidence-based practice.
- Demonstrated ability to work autonomously, as well as within a multidisciplinary team and contribute to a collaborative approach to client care and service delivery with consumers displaying high risk behaviours.
- Well-developed interpersonal communication skills (e.g. critical thinking, problem solving and conflict resolution) within a broad range of clinical, community and organisational interactions.
- Demonstrated experience in professionally supervising psychologists, including graduate psychologists and psychology students completing placements.
- Demonstrated ability to provide primary and secondary consultation to family / carers and internal / external service providers.
- Sound knowledge of recovery and collaborative clinical practice.
- Sound knowledge of relevant mental health legislation and policy.
- Demonstrated competence in initiating and contributing to quality improvement, evaluation and research activities.



**Our actions
show we care**



**We bring
our best**



**Together
we achieve**



**We shape
the future**

- Proficient information technology skills.

Desirable but not essential:

- Experience working with consumers with neurodevelopmental disorders.

Professional qualifications and registration requirements

- Minimum of a Master's degree in Clinical and / or Forensic psychology from an Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) approved program of study.
- Current psychology registration with AHPRA.
- Current specialist endorsement with AHPRA to practice as a Clinical and / or Forensic Psychologist.
- Current AHPRA approved supervision status to deliver clinical and / or forensic supervision.

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.



**Our actions
show we care**



**We bring
our best**



**Together
we achieve**



**We shape
the future**

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