

Position Description

Clinical Psychologist

Classification:	Clinical Psychologist Grade 2
Business unit/department:	Acute Psychiatric Unit, Mental Health Division
Work location:	Austin Hospital ☒ Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital ☐ Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre ☐ Other ☐ (please specify)
Agreement:	Victorian Public Health Sector (Medical Scientists, Pharmacists and Psychologists) Single Enterprise Agreement 2021-2025 Choose an item. Choose an item.
Employment type:	Parental Leave Cover
Hours per week:	22.80
Reports to:	Nurse Unit Manager, Acute Psychiatric Unit
Direct reports:	0
Financial management:	Budget: 0
Date:	June 2026

Position purpose

The **Psychologist Grade 2** position will provide specialist psychological services to consumers of the Acute Psychiatric Unit (APU). This will entail assessment of admitted consumers, structured individual and group psychotherapy, liaison with family, carers and external stakeholders, and for the appointee to be a fully contributing member of the multi-disciplinary team within the APU, and the Mental Health Division more widely.

The position reports directly to the NUM for all operational and overall clinical matters. Professionally the position will report to the Head of Department of Clinical Psychology.

Role Specific:

The aims and objectives of Clinical Psychologist are as follows:

- To participate collaboratively as an active member in the multidisciplinary treatment teams.
- Promote and maintain high standards of psychological services provided to the acute consumers.

- Participate in regular multidisciplinary team handovers, ward rounds, and meetings within the APU.
- Conduct individual psychological assessments, including case history, case formulation, suggestions for DSM-V diagnoses, and inform treatment planning within the broader multidisciplinary team.
- Deliver brief psychological interventions as appropriate and liaise with multidisciplinary team members regarding assessment findings, treatment planning and ongoing care.
- Provide suggestions for outpatient follow-up for consumers to address relevant mental health issues and possible interventions in line with the objectives of the unit.
- When primary assessments may not be possible due to clinical presentation, provide secondary consultations by way of file review, handovers, and ward rounds.
- Provide input in the planning and facilitating psychoeducational mental health group programs for acute psychiatry.
- Participate in Psychology department meetings on a regular basis and other related professional activities.
- Provide of support to provisional psychologists as directed by the Head of the Department 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.

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.

This position is located with the acute psychiatric precinct based with the allied health practitioners. Direct line management is from the Nurse Unit Manager of the acute services.

Position responsibilities

- Conduct referral screening and triaging, file review and consultation with treating teams to inform clinical prioritisation, treatment planning and allocation of psychology services.
- Deliver brief, evidence-based psychological interventions to consumers admitted to the Acute Psychiatric Unit, tailored to the individual's presentation, admission goals, and length of stay.
- Contribute psychological formulation and recommendations to multidisciplinary treatment planning, ward rounds, case reviews, and handovers.
- Provide trauma-informed, recovery-oriented and person-centred care to consumers and their families/carers.
- Facilitate and evaluate psychology-led psychoeducational and therapeutic group programs relevant to acute inpatient care.
- Undertake secondary consultation to treating teams by providing psychological perspectives, formulation, behavioural support strategies, and recommendations.



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- Participate in safety planning, risk assessment and management, in collaboration with consumers and the multidisciplinary team.
- Assist consumers to identify and access appropriate community-based supports, including provision of recommendations, warm referrals and clinical handover where appropriate to support continuity of care.
- Liaise with internal and external stakeholders, including community mental health teams, general practitioners, private psychologists, psychiatrists, carers, NDIS and other service providers.
- Maintain accurate, timely and comprehensive clinical documentation within the electronic medical record.
- Participate in service development, quality improvement, evaluation, research and education initiatives within the APU and Mental Health Division.
- Participate in psychology department meetings, professional development activities, discipline supervision and multidisciplinary education programs.
- Identify and respond to family violence concerns in accordance with organisational policies, MARAM responsibilities and professional scope of practice.

Selection criteria

Essential Knowledge and skills:

- Clinical Masters Degree or Doctorate in Clinical Psychology recognized by the Australian Psychological Society and registered as a Psychologist with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.
- Demonstrated skill, experience and competence in the provision of structured evidence based therapeutic interventions in individual and group settings.
- Demonstrated skill, experience and competence in working as part of a multi- disciplinary clinical team.
- Demonstrated skill, experience and competence in promoting a standard of excellence in clinical practice.
- Demonstrated competence in initiating and contributing to quality improvement, evaluation and research activities.
- Experience in building and maintaining professional relationships with key stakeholders including consumers, carers, family members, GP's Private Psychiatrists, AMHS, CYMHS and community agencies.
- A comprehensive understanding and working knowledge of the Mental Health Act (2014) and other relevant legislation.
- Highly developed written and verbal communication skills including demonstrated excellence in problem solving ability and conflict resolution skills.

Desirable but not essential:

- A sound understanding of information technology including clinical systems, applications relevant to the Management of rostering and risk management reporting or as required for the role and/or department.
- Experience and proficiency in keyboarding and computer skills.
- Demonstrated experience in developing and delivering training to a range of stakeholders.
- Demonstrated skill, experience and competence to work collaboratively, effectively and



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efficiently across a range of settings -inpatient, community and/or both.

Professional qualifications and registration requirements

- General Registration as a Psychologist with Psychology Board of Australia / AHPRA
- Masters or Doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology
- Area of Practice Endorsement in Clinical Psychology, or working towards this via AHPRA Registrar program.

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



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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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