

Position Description

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| Position Title: | Mental Health Advice and Response Service (MHARS) - Clinician |
| Reports to: | Mental Health Access Team Manager |
| Department: | Mental Health and Wellbeing |
| Directorate: | Community Care and Mental Health |
| Cost centre: | H0488 |
| Code & classification: | Registered Psychiatric Nurse Grade 4 (NP75 - NP77), Occupational Therapist Grade 3 (YB24 - YB27), Psychologist Grade 3 (PL1- PL4) or Social Worker Grade 3 (YC46 –YC49) |
| Employment conditions: | Victorian Public Mental Health Services Enterprise Agreement 2020 – 2024 or Medical Scientists, Pharmacists and Psychologists Victorian Public Sector (Single Interest Employers) Enterprise Agreement 2021-2025 and its successors, and GV Health Policies and Procedures (and as varied from time to time) |

GV Health is an equal opportunity employer and continually strives to build a diverse, equitable and inclusive workforce that reflects our community. We encourage applications from people of all backgrounds.

Statements included in this position description are intended to reflect in general the duties and responsibilities of the position. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list of responsibilities, duties and skills required. GV Health may alter the duties of this position description if and when the need arises. Any such changes will be made in consultation with the affected employee(s).

POSITION SUMMARY

The Mental Health Advice and Response Service (MHARS) has been established as part of Victoria's Forensic Mental Health Implementation Plan. The MHARS plays a key role in the public mental health response to the over representation of people with mental illness in the criminal justice system.

The MHARS Clinician is based at the Shepparton Magistrate Courts to provide a high level of clinical advice and consultation to Magistrates and other relevant stakeholders in the justice system. The MHARS clinician undertakes mental state and mental health assessments for consumers engaged in the justice system enabling them to provide expert advice and recommendations to support fully informed judicial determinations.

The MHARS clinician works with consumers using a person-centred and recovery-oriented approach and ensures consumers engaged in the justice system have access to mental health and wellbeing support. The MHARS clinician will make critical linkages for consumers requiring ongoing mental health treatment, case and support where necessary.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

The following duties are inclusive of but not limited to the following:

- To provide informed clinical advice and consultation to Magistrates, Community Corrections staff, members of the legal profession, other relevant professionals and community agencies in relation to mental health issues

- Demonstrate highly developed skills when completing mental health assessments with clients in the context of the court system including the Court Assessment and Prosecutions Services (CAPS) of Community Corrections
- Provides high quality and timely written assessment reports relating to consumer's mental health status and treatment/referral recommendations
- Provides verbal mental health assessments within the formal court setting as requested by the Magistrate
- Undertakes liaison with Police, Custodial Health Service and Forensic Medical Officers to ensure that the mental health needs of defendants in police custody are met
- Contributes to the development and delivery of training for Magistrates, Community Correctional staff, members of the legal profession, other relevant professionals and community agencies in relation to mental health issues
- Actively participates in regular MHARS and wider organisational meetings and reviews of clinical standards
- Initiates, contributes to, and actively participates in identifying and implementing quality improvement activities at the service level
- Supports program evaluation and ongoing data collection, and promotes a positive working relationship with key stakeholders such as Magistrates, Corrections Victoria Justice Health and Department of Justice
- Demonstrates a sound knowledge of relevant legislation, including the Mental Health & Wellbeing Act 2022, the Sentencing Act 1991, and the Crimes (Mental Impairment and Unfitness to be Tried) Act 1997.
- Demonstrates a sound understanding of, and applies in practice, professional values and ethical standards.
- Demonstrates high level communication skills and is able to engage professionally and respectfully with consumers and a variety of court stakeholders.
- Maintains consumer confidentiality and prevents unauthorised access of non-clinical staff to clinical information, including the CMI and client medical record database.
- Undertakes alcohol and other drug (AOD) screening and assessment of substance use/withdrawal using the principles of an integrated mental health and AOD approach
- Reports to the Mental Health Advice and Response Service Manager (Forensicare) in regards to service deliverables and to the Mental Health Access Team Manager GVAMWHS for operational and clinical day-to-day issues.

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

Formal Qualification(s) and Required Registration(s):

- Current registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency as a Registered Nurse, Occupational Therapist or Psychologist
- Social Workers must be eligible for membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW)
- Psychologists must have: current clinical psychology or forensic psychology registration with the Psychology Board of Australia
- Registered Nurses must have: post graduate qualification in Mental Health or related field– minimum Post Grad Diploma

Essential:

- Demonstrated experience in mental health including 5 years post registration in a relevant setting, with a preference for experience in area mental health or forensic mental health setting.
- Demonstrated ability to independently undertake comprehensive mental health assessments with well-defined written communication and report writing skills.
- Well-developed analytical and problem-solving skills and the ability to function independently.
- An understanding of the legal system, court protocols and associated processes.
- Knowledge of community resources available to support mental health recovery for consumers in the community
- Knowledge of relevant legislation and service content including the Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022, the Sentencing Act 1991, and the Crimes (Mental Impairment and Unfitness to be Tried) Act 1997 and the criminal justice system.
- Ability to liaise and effectively communication with a wide range of key stakeholders including the ability to consult, liaise and negotiate with consumers, carers, family members of the general community members of the legal profession and other professionals.
- Well-developed knowledge of integrated AOD and mental health practices and dual diagnosis.
- computer skills and capability to utilise electronic computer systems

Desirable:

- Previous experience in similar or same role
- Post-Graduate qualification in Forensic Mental Health

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**Your performance will be measured through your successful achievement of:**

- Demonstrating of GV Health CREATE values and behaviours and being a role model for living the values of Compassion, Respect, Excellence, Accountability, Teamwork and Ethical Behaviour;
- Participation in regular MHARS and wider organisational meetings
- Registration is maintained and working within scope of practice
- Participation in Performance and Development reviews
- Maintain activity-based data on reporting system CMI

ALL GV HEALTH STAFF ARE REQUIRED TO

- Demonstrate GV Health's CREATE values and behaviours and being a role model for living the values of Compassion, Respect, Excellence, Accountability, Teamwork and Ethical Behaviour;
- Maintain an understanding of individual responsibility for consumer safety, quality and risk and adhere to the relevant policies, procedures and guidelines;
- Develop and maintain collaborative relationships with all other teams and professionals;
- Promote and enable efficient teamwork and service provision both within the department and/or organisation and with other service providers;
- Contribute to a safe working environment and ensure compliance with legislative requirements concerning Occupational Health and Safety, anti-discrimination, and equal opportunity;

- Identify, report and manage risks and ensure actions are taken to prevent and minimise harm to consumers and the GV Health workforce;
- Contribute to organisational quality and safety initiatives;
- Observe and comply with child safe principles, standards and expectations of appropriate behaviour toward and in the company of children;
- Complete and maintain all mandatory training requirements as defined by GV Health and actively engage in the Performance Development Review process;
- Minimise the risk of infection to consumers, residents, employees, visitors, contractors and the general public;
- Comply with requirements of the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards and other relevant standards, regulations and legislative requirements;
- Comply with the principles of patient and family centred care;
- Not smoke or vape on GV Health premises;
- Comply with immunisation requirements as per the Victorian Department of Health Victoria;
- Comply with all applicable position pre-employment checks that are relevant to the role, which may include but is not limited to; police checks, Working with Children's Check (WWCC), National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and Aged Care screening requirements;
- In this role you may occasionally interact with distressed, anxious or upset consumers or members of the public. GV Health is committed to the physical and psychosocial safety of our staff. All staff are required to comply with all safety related training, look after the safety and well-being of themselves and each other, and actively foster a safe working environment.

ACCEPTANCE:

I acknowledge and accept that this Position Description represents the general outline of duties, responsibilities and accountabilities that are expected of me in my employment in the position, and may not encompass every aspect of the position. I understand that GV Health reserves the right to modify position descriptions as required, however I will be consulted when this occurs.

I acknowledge and accept that I must complete and maintain all relevant pre-employment screening and checks for successful employment.

I acknowledge and accept that that I have read and fully understand this Position Description. I agree that I have the ability to fulfil the inherent requirements of the position, and accept my role in fulfilling the responsibilities, activities, duties and generic position requirements.

I acknowledge I will be required to undertake the duties as set out in the position description (and any other duties as requested in accordance with my skills and experience) to the best of my ability and, at all times follow lawful direction.

By accepting the contract of employment, I am agreeing to duties and obligations within the Position Description.

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| Community Care and Mental Health | Mental Health Advice and Response Service - Clinician |
| Reviewed by: | Catherine Bould |
| Issue Date: | 29/07/2025 |

ABOUT US

Goulburn Valley (GV) Health is a Regional Public Hospital and Health Service for the Hume Region of Victoria, with main campuses located at Shepparton, Tatura, Rushworth and Euroa. The main campus in Shepparton is the major acute referral hospital for the sub region. Additional satellite sites are also located in Shepparton, Seymour, Benalla, Cobram, Echuca and Wodonga. GV Health provides a range of acute, subacute, mental health, aged, primary health and community services.

OUR PURPOSE

To significantly improve the health and wellbeing outcomes and experiences of the people and communities in our care.

OUR VALUES

GV Health's culture centres around our CREATE values and behaviours. Through these values and behaviours we commit to delivering ongoing quality healthcare for our community:



GV Health Vision and Values: [Values and Vision - GV Health](#)

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

The Goulburn Valley Health Strategic Plan 2024-2026 provides the direction for GV Health with our five strategic pillars being:

- Health and Wellbeing Outcomes: Improve health and outcomes for the population in our region
- Community and Consumer Experience: Ensure everyone has an outstanding personalised experience
- Our Staff Experience: Our people feel connected, supported, safe and well
- Responsible Workplace: Be sustainable and efficient
- Health Equity: Embrace differences in how we design and deliver healthcare

GV Health Strategic Plan: [Strategic Plan 2024-2026 - GV Health](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Application tips: [Application Tips - GV Health](#)

GV Health: <https://www.gvhealth.org.au/about/>

Child Safety and Wellbeing: [Child Safety and Wellbeing - GV Health](#)

Living in Goulburn Valley: [Goulburn | Regional Living Victoria](#)

GV Community Connector: [Community Connector Program for Businesses](#)