

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title:	Senior Alcohol & Other Drug Clinician
Business Unit/Department:	Custodial Health
Division:	Western Health at Home
Award/Agreement:	Allied Health Professionals (Victorian Public Sector) (Single Interest Employers) Enterprise Agreement
Classification:	Grade 3
Reports To:	Service Manager - Custodial Health
Direct Reports:	N/A
Date Prepared/Updated:	12 January 2026

Position Purpose

Working collaboratively with people incarcerated within the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, Health Services and Corrections Victoria Staff, as well other stakeholders, the Senior Alcohol & Other Drug (AOD) Clinician will lead the development, implementation and ongoing monitoring of high quality evidence-based AOD care within the Custodial Health setting.

Bringing contemporary knowledge of both 1:1 and group-based therapeutic and harm reduction interventions, the Senior AOD Clinician will ensure that the care provided to people within DPFC is accountable, safe, appropriate and flexible to the context of service delivery, with a strong focus on reducing the harms associated with substance use. Acting as an exemplar, the role will provide support to colleagues to further develop their understanding of alcohol and other drug use, associated factors influencing AOD related harms, and support appropriate care linkages.

Business Unit Overview

Dame Phyllis Frost Centre (DPFC) is a correctional facility for women located in Ravenhall in Melbourne's west. DPFC is operated by Corrections Victoria and provides maximum, medium and minimum-security accommodation for women on remand and those currently serving sentences. At present, the prison can accommodate 572 women, this includes a 20-bed specialist mental health inpatient facility operated by Forensicare.

Western Health is responsible for the provision of primary healthcare to people throughout their prison stay at DPFC, this can include:

- Primary Care e.g. General Practitioner, Women's Health
- Primary mental healthcare
- Population health
- Dental services
- Advanced care planning
- Medication management
- Diagnostic services – radiology and pathology

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- Allied health services
- Medical aids and equipment
- Access to specialist services in the community

The quality and standard of health care provided to patients is the equivalent standard to that provided in the community, through the public health system. Western Health's multidisciplinary workforce will work alongside service providers to provide holistic and interconnected health service delivery for patients at DPFC, including a tailored health response for priority cohorts.

Key Responsibilities

- Deliver contemporary evidence-based Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) assessment and interventions in the Custodial setting, inclusive of harm reduction, assessment and treatment planning, relapse prevention and other core AOD modes of practice
- Oversight and delivery of AOD Health Stream programs
- Ensure all interventions are delivered within a trauma-informed and culturally appropriate framework
- Provide leadership in the provision and ongoing development of AOD interventions in the custodial setting
- Work collaboratively and professionally with all Custodial Health staff to increase the knowledge, skills and confidence of staff in identifying and appropriately responding to AOD issues in the custodial environment
- Lead the response to the Identified Drug User program within the custodial environment
- Contribute actively to the ongoing development of the AOD Health program suite, using advanced AOD skills and knowledge
- Demonstrate a commitment to the patient 'Charter of Healthcare Rights'
- Comply with the expected scope of the role and standards of performance in the role as described by the relevant professional bodies/industry standards and leadership capability framework
- Maintain registration (as required) and report any changes or limitations on practice if applicable
- Hold accountability for own actions and seek guidance and support from appropriate employees when limited by own skills and experience
- Comply with confidentiality obligations with regard to patients, consumers and colleagues
- Comply with all Western Health policies and procedures
- In conjunction with service manager ensure staff are appropriately directed and supported to deliver high quality client centred care in line with the "Best Care" Framework
- Lead and deliver high quality person centred interprofessional care in line with the "Best Care" framework
- Demonstrate extensive, evidence-based specialist knowledge, clinical reasoning and competencies, to lead and enhance patient care in area of practice
- Provide and direct others in the provision of evidence based clinical services using a person-centred approach
- Demonstrate capacity to develop and implement methods to ensure that staff in the area of responsibility have an appropriate, measurable level of competence
- Ensure the application and maintenance of clinical standards in areas of delegated responsibility
- Demonstrate highly developed organisational skills and efficient time management to appropriately evaluate, prioritise and complete workload
- Identify and support others to solve complex problems
- In conjunction with service manager contribute to the development and implementation of processes to facilitate effective consumer participation, and ensure that appropriate responses are provided to customer feedback and complaints
- Lead planning for clinical services for the team
- In conjunction with service manager support staff to meet service targets/goals
- Provide leadership which promotes effective teamwork, encourages cohesion and ensures staff feel valued and contributions are acknowledged
- In conjunction with the service manager, actively work towards service integration and streamlined patient journeys
- In conjunction with service manager ensure appropriate orientation of new staff

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- Demonstrate expert knowledge of resources relevant to area and acts as a resource person for other team members
- Demonstrate high level open and effective communication (verbal, non-verbal, written and electronic) with consumers, other staff and service providers
- Demonstrate highly effective negotiation skills and conflict resolution skills when dealing with difficult situations
- Actively participate in regular supervision, demonstrating ongoing development of clinical skills and reflective practice as identified in supervision plan
- Demonstrate flexibility/responsiveness within professional practice/duties/roles and assumes extra responsibility as required to meet organisational priorities and appropriately delegates as necessary
- Participate and represent the service in consultation with service manager at relevant committees, working groups and meetings as requested.
- Lead the provision of information and education about the service and professional role within the service
- Assist in promoting effective workplace relations and teamwork to ensure optimum relations across acute services and collaborating community agencies
- Participate in and contribute to relevant case conferences, team meetings, client/family feedback meetings
- Assist in cultivating an environment where workers have the opportunity to work to their full scope of practice and potential
- Assist in fostering and developing research opportunities across the service
- Conduct or contribute to feedback to staff on their performance including performance development planning and performance management where relevant
- Where designated, provide high quality supervision to junior staff and students that is timely, flexible and responsible
- Lead and participate in the development, organisation and delivery of education programs for Western Health staff, external service providers and the community
- Present at internal and external forums to enhance personal knowledge and professional development
- Lead service development and evaluation through quality improvement activities or research projects where appropriate
- Assist in writing procedures and guidelines as required for the ongoing development of the program, and support relevant staff to complete these tasks
- Assist in meeting reporting requirements relating to the service
- Ensure that service/program outcomes are achieved through appropriate client management and pathways
- Facilitate/assist in the process of recruitment, selection and retention of staff to meet client and service needs.
- Ensure that workload statistics, and other required information, is entered and reported as directed, and on time by self and staff in area of responsibility
- Perform other duties as directed

In addition to the key responsibilities specific to your role, you are required to deliver on the [WH AH Capability Framework](#) and the [Key Organisational Accountabilities](#) which are aligned with the Western Health strategic aims.

Key Working Relationships

Internal:

- Service Manager
- Nurse Unit Manager
- Operations Manager
- Director Custodial Health
- DPFC Health Services Staff

External:

- Department of Justice and Community Safety
- Corrections Victoria staff

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- DPFC Management and Operations staff
- Patients at DPFC
- Other service providers within DPFC
- Other healthcare networks and service providers
- Community AOD Providers

Selection Criteria

Essential:

- Appropriate recognised tertiary qualification and registration if relevant with the appropriate body
- Minimum 5 years' experience working within the Alcohol and Other Drug setting
- Highly developed interpersonal, written and electronic communication skills
- Group and 1:1 therapeutic interventions skills
- Computer literacy

Desirable:

- Hold a relevant postgraduate qualification or be working towards same
- Experience working with clients in or from custodial settings

Desirable Personal Attributes:

- Self-motivated
- Broad systems and innovative thinking
- Ability to influence others
- Mindful observation
- Timely informed decision making
- Collaborative approach
- Confidence in own ability
- Embraces self-growth and continual learning
- Adaptable, flexible and persistent as required
- Effective delegator
- Resilience

Additional Requirements

All employees are required to:

- Obtain a police/criminal history check prior to employment
- Obtain a working with children check prior to employment (if requested)
- Obtain an Immunisation Health Clearance prior to employment
- Report to management any criminal charges or convictions you receive during the course of your employment
- Comply with relevant Western Health clinical and administrative policies and guidelines
- Comply with and accept responsibility for ensuring the implementation of health and safety policies and procedures
- Fully co-operate with Western Health in any action it considers necessary to maintain a working environment, which is safe, and without risk to health
- Protect confidential information from unauthorised disclosure and not use, disclose or copy confidential information except for the purpose of and to the extent necessary to perform your employment duties at Western Health
- Safeguard children and young people in our care, by ensuring that your interactions are positive and safe, and report any suspicions or concerns of abuse by any person internal or external to Western Health
- Be aware of and comply with relevant legislation: Public Administration Act 2004, Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, the Victorian Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004, the Victorian Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (OHS Regulations 2017), Fair Work Act 2009 (as amended), the Privacy Act 1988 and responsibilities under s141 Health Services Act with regard to the sharing of health information, the Family Violence and Child Information Sharing Schemes, Part 5A and 6A Family Violence Protection Act 2008

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- Be aware of and comply with the Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Sector Employees and other Western Health employment guidelines
- Work at any of the Western Health sites as directed, in accordance with business and organisational demands and priorities.

General Information

- Redeployment to other services within Western Health may be required
- Employment terms and conditions are provided according to relevant award/agreement
- Western Health is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing for its employees a work environment which is free of harassment or discrimination. The organisation promotes diversity and awareness in the workplace
- Western Health is committed to Gender Equity
- Western Health provides support to all personnel experiencing family and domestic violence
- This position description is intended to describe the general nature and level of work that is to be performed by the person appointed to the role. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required. Western Health reserves the right to modify position descriptions as required. Employees will be consulted when this occurs
- Western Health is a smoke free environment

I confirm I have read the Position Description, understand its content and agree to work in accordance with the requirements of the position.

Employee's Name: _____

Employee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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