

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title:	Forensic Clinical Specialist
Business Unit/Department:	Mental Health Services Administration
Division:	Mental Health & Wellbeing Services
Award/Agreement:	Victorian Public Mental Health Services Enterprise Agreement, Medical Specialists (Victorian Public Health Sector) (AMA Victoria/ASMOF) (Single Interest Employers) Enterprise Agreement
Classification:	RPN Grade 5 (NP51), OT Grade 5 - Year 1 to Year 4 (AJ11 to AJ14), Psychologist Grade 4 - Year 1 to Year 5 (PM1 to PM5) and SW Grade 5 - Year 1 to Year 4 (AJ57 to AJ60)
Reports To:	Operations Manager (Specialist Services)
Direct Reports:	N/A
Date Prepared/Updated:	January 2026

Position Purpose

The Forensic Clinical Specialist Initiative was established in 2010 to build the specialist capability of the clinical adult mental health workforce to assess, treat and support people with severe mental illness who are high-risk, violent or aggressive and have a forensic/criminal history, as part of core 'business-as-usual' service provision.

The position holds a key role in inter-service liaison between Area Mental Health and Wellbeing Services, court corrections, prison and Forensicare services.

The position supports the maintenance and continued development of optimal clinical pathways and enhanced relationships between services, including the provision of advice in relation to referral and assessment pathways, effective treatment, compliance with legislation and risk management.

In meeting the aims of this role, the clinician will undertake joint assessments of patients with a forensic history or high risk of offending across services in the AMHS catchment and deliver secondary consultation, education and training.

It is not expected that the clinician will hold a direct case load except for short periods in exceptional circumstances.

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Business Unit Overview

The Division of Mental Health and Wellbeing Services spans across multiple Western Health sites and within the local community and services consumers across the lifespan.

Western Health's Mental Health and Wellbeing Service (MH&WS) provides a comprehensive range of specialist mental health services to people residing in the local government areas of Melton, Brimbank, Maribyrnong and parts of Hume (Sunbury/Bulla). We deliver specialist clinical programs across Adult Community Services, EMH/PARC/CL Psychiatry, the St Albans Community Care Unit, the Adult Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit, and the Adult Acute Inpatient Unit.

The MH&W service is situated in a growth corridor characterised by continuous development, service expansion, and innovative new programs. Our recovery-oriented care is delivered by a skilled multidisciplinary workforce, including lived and living experience workers, with input from consumers and carers. These services include hospital based, community and specialist mental health and wellbeing services for adults, older adults, children and adolescents who are experiencing, or are at risk of developing a serious mental illness.

The Division collaborates across a number of Divisions within Western Health and partners with external health services and community services to ensure the provision of Best Care. The Division aims to innovate and develop services and care options across Western Health to ensure Best Care for the community of Western Melbourne.

Key Responsibilities

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Main Responsibilities

- Liaise with key referral agencies
- Actively engage with, and be the primary contact for, key agencies, including police, community corrections, prisons, mental health services, the mental health court liaison service and the community integration program at Forensicare to facilitate the transition of High-Risk clients and clients with a forensic/offending history to the AMHS
- Initiate and contribute to the development of relevant policies, protocols and procedures
- Provide expert advice and consultation to services that meet the needs and preferences of our patients and clients and their families and carers
- Provide timely advice, specialist joint assessments, secondary consultation and on the job training to the specialist mental health workforce in relation to high-risk clients
- Assist clinical (including triage clinicians) and non-government workers to:
 - Identify and assess consumers with high risk/ challenging behaviours, including undertaking joint assessment of consumers with the most complex presentations
 - Assist in the development of comprehensive treatment and care plans
 - Assist in the development of comprehensive risk assessment and management plans
 - Participate in the review of treatment and care plans
- Actively provide expert advice and clinical support to staff who are working with a person transitioning from the corrections system, courts, prison and Thomas Embling Hospital
- In exceptional cases, participate in short-term shared case management of high-risk clients
- Maintain and complete comprehensive documentation and data sets.

Organisational Capacity Building & Quality Improvement

- Provide leadership within the division in relation to working with high-risk clients and clients with a forensic/offending history, as required
- Provide education and training (formal and informal) to clinical and other relevant support services staff on relevant topics, including structured risk assessment and management, legal issues associated with working with high-risk clients and complex care planning and review
- Coordinate post-incident operational reviews in relation to clients with high-risk and clients with a forensic/offending history
- Meet all required KPI's
- Monitor and track people released from prison under the MHW and transported to a Western Health facility.

Research & Evaluation

- Collect and analyse program-related data and prepare reports as requested/ required
- Lead evaluation and research-oriented activities relating to the forensic clinical specialist program, including leading the agency's participation in any DoH initiated evaluation.

Professional Development

- Actively engage in regular direct clinical supervision and peer support and networking activities related to the role
- Participate in orientation sessions provided by Forensicare
- Participate in the regular on-going specialist training to further develop forensic mental health skills. (The ongoing training coordinated by Forensicare is mandatory).

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

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Key Working Relationships

Internal:

- Operational Manager: specialist services
- Divisional Director
- Clinical Services Director
- Community, residential and inpatient teams

External:

- Forensicare
- Department of Justice and Community Safety
- Department of Health
- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
- Victoria Police
- Ambulance Victoria
- NDIS services
- Other external stakeholders as required

Selection Criteria

Essential

Occupational Therapists:

- Registration under Australian Practitioner Regulation National Law Act (2009) with the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia.
- An approved Degree from a recognised School of Occupational Therapy or other qualifications approved for eligibility for membership of the Australian Association of Occupational Therapy (Vic).

Registered Psychiatric Nurses:

- Registration as a registered nurse under the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act (2009) with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.
- Bachelor Degree in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing or equivalent or Bachelor Degree in Nursing plus Postgraduate qualifications in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing.

Psychologist:

- Registration as a Psychologist under the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act (2009) with practice endorsement as a Clinical, Forensic or Clinical Neuro Psychologist with the Psychology Board of Australia.

Social Workers:

- An approved Degree in Social Work and eligibility for membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers.

Comply with all legal requirements pertaining to the position including responsibility for maintaining current registration as required by your professional organisation or other applicable Acts.

Required:

- At least 7 years post graduate experience in a relevant professional setting (8 for psychology)
- Clinical experience in a range of community mental health settings
- Knowledge of Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022, Crimes (Mental Impairment and unfitness to be Tried) Act 1997, Sentencing Act 1991, and other relevant legislation
- A thorough knowledge of current Mental Health approaches in working with mentally and/ or behaviourally disordered clients
- Commitment to working with and delivering quality outcomes for high-risk clients and those with a history of offending
- Demonstrated capacity to provide clinical leadership across the agency
- Well-developed and effective written and verbal communications skills including the ability to

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- consult, liaise and negotiate with a range of stakeholders and service providers
- Demonstrated capacity to operate as an independent practitioner and to work effectively across a range of mental health teams
- Demonstrated capacity to build strong and effective relationships with key stakeholders
- Commitment to working with clients from various ethnic backgrounds
- Commitment to ongoing professional development including attending ALL components of the Forensicare Training Package, supervision forums/ sessions.
- Computer literacy
- Current driver's license

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
- Be aware of and comply with the Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Sector Employees and other Western Health employment guidelines

General Information

- Redeployment to other services or sites 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.

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Employee's Name: _____

Employee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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