



POSITION DESCRIPTION

YOUTH PEER WORKER - HEADSPACE

Location:	headspace – Glenroy, Craigieburn, Werribee, Melton, Sunshine
Division:	Primary Clinical Services
Classification:	Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award (2020), Social and Community Services Employee, Level 2 Youth Worker, Unqualified
Employment Type:	Part-time fixed term, option for either: • 0.5 FTE for 12 months; or • 0.4 FTE for 6 months.
Position reports to:	Clinical Services Manager

1. POSITION SUMMARY

The Youth Peer Worker is a committed, passionate young person who has a personal and lived experience with mental ill health challenges. The Youth Peer Worker intentionally shares this lived experience to young people to provide support and guidance. This role is funded by the North West Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN) to identify and re-engage headspace consumers who have engaged with headspace services but since the introduction of COVID-19 restrictions in March 2020, have disengaged, or are at risk of disengaging due to limited access to in person services.

To achieve this objective the Youth Peer Worker will coordinate and deliver headspace programs and initiatives aimed at educating and engaging young people in and about core aspects of early intervention across the four domains of mental health, physical health, alcohol and other drugs, and work and study. A large component of this role is to actively reach out to young people to engage them in youth peer work and broader headspace options.

The Youth Peer Worker will be self-motivated and directed individual, and will possess a sound ability to engage with young people.

The role will be supported by the Clinical Services Manager and the Senior Access Clinician, to work with the broader headspace team and will be supported by regular staff meetings and supervision. In addition to the formal structures of support and supervision, the incumbent should seek support and consultation from team members and senior staff as required.

2. POSITION CONTEXT

The Youth Peer Worker will work within the team at one of the five headspace centres auspiced by Orygen (Craigieburn/Glenroy/Melton/Sunshine/Werribee). This role is designed to identify and re-engage headspace consumers who have engaged with headspace services but since the introduction of COVID-19 restrictions in March 2020, have disengaged, or are at risk of disengaging due to limited access to in person services.

headspace is a world-first youth mental health initiative that supports young people who are going through a tough time; whether it's depression, anxiety, relationship break-ups or alcohol and other drug issues. The

youth-friendly services at headspace are aimed at teenagers and young adults in recognition of the fact that 75 percent of mental disorders emerge before the age of 25 years.

Orygen has been funded by headspace: the National Youth Mental Health Foundation to operate a headspace centre and associated services in [Craigieburn](#), [Glenroy](#), [Melton](#), [Sunshine](#) and [Werribee](#). headspace aims to improve access to services and continuity of care for young people across four core streams of service including: mental health; alcohol and other drugs (AOD); primary care; and social recovery/vocational services.

3. ABOUT ORYGEN

VISION	Young people to enjoy optimal mental health as they grow into adulthood.
MISSION	Reduce the impact of mental ill-health on young people, their families and society.
VALUES	Respect, accountability, teamwork, excellence & innovation.
COMMITMENTS	First Nations people of Australia, young people and their families, LGBTIQA+ people & culturally and linguistically diverse people.

4. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES/OUTCOMES

The Youth Peer Worker will:

- Coordinate and deliver headspace programs and initiatives aimed at educating and engaging young people back into headspace care.
- Work with young people in a non-clinical way that values the shared experiences of a peer and supports the young person to appropriately engage with headspace.
- Facilitate or co-facilitate programs within the headspace centre for young people.
- Contribute to the review and further development of headspace programs and education packages as necessary.
- Work with the headspace team on projects and initiatives related to this role.
- Promote the headspace program, communicate regularly with, build and maintain collaborative working relationships with health and welfare agencies and the general community.
- Liaison with internal and external stakeholders.
- The role may incorporate other service development activities and responsibilities as reasonably directed by the Clinical Services Manager.

5. SELECTION CRITERIA

The following criteria must be met for consideration for this position:

Essential

- Aged between 18 and 24 years.
- Personal lived experience of mental ill health challenges with any of the following: mental health, physical health, alcohol and other drug and/or work and study.
- Passion, energy and determination to make a difference to health outcomes for young people.
- Experience or knowledge of peer work/youth participation principles/frameworks.
- Capacity to problem solve effectively, engage and work creatively with young people.
- Capacity and willingness to conduct presentations and programs to large groups of people, including young people and adults.
- Ability to work effectively in a team.
- Excellent organisational, interpersonal and communication skills (written and verbal) to communicate warmly and effectively with young people, liaise, build relationships and partnerships, consult and negotiate with a wide variety of stakeholders.
- Commitment to supporting clinical research within the service.

Highly Desirable

- Experience in working in a Peer Work role
- Experience with or knowledge of group leadership and/or facilitation.
- Current enrolment in a relevant tertiary course.
- Experience as a member of a Youth Advisory Group at a headspace Centre or in a similar role with another organisation.

6. PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL KNOWLEDGE

The Youth Peer Worker will be expected to have:

- Knowledge and support of frameworks of early intervention, de-stigmatisation, diversity, inclusion, and non-discrimination.
- Knowledge of the common mental health, substance use and social problems faced by young people.
- A commitment to learning about the different types of organisations involved in mental health and drug and alcohol service delivery to young people.
- A commitment to learning about issues of ethics and confidentiality and willingness to comply with privacy legislation in relation to the health care of young people within the headspace model.
- Excellent computer skills with a demonstrated ability in word processing, presentation programs and databases as required.

7. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- A current Victorian driver's licence.
- Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in Orygen's Occupational Health and Safety policy.
- All Orygen employees are required to familiarise themselves with the organisation's policies and procedures and to adhere to them at all times.
- Unrestricted right to live and work in Australia.
- A current National Police Check will be required.
- A current valid Working with Children Check is required.
- You may be required to work across more than one of ORYGEN's sites, which are currently located within the north and west of Melbourne.