FIRST NATIONS YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER

2027-2028

POSITION SUMMARY

Location:	Virtual/Melbourne, Victoria
Functional area:	Strategy & Engagement
Term of appointment:	A minimum of 4 hours per month for two years
Employment type:	Volunteer paid via an honorarium
Supervisor:	Manager - Youth Participation & Youth Participation Project Officer

POSITION PURPOSE STATEMENT

Orygen is seeking three Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people with a passion for advocacy to join Orygen's national Youth Advisory Council (YAC) for a two-year term.

The YAC is made up of 17 young people currently living in Australia with:

- a lived or living experience of mental health challenges,
- a passion or interest in youth mental health and/or
- a passion or interest in research related to youth mental health.

The Youth Advisory Council's purpose is to advise Orygen on implementing the 2022-27 Strategic Plan and Orygen-wide activities to strengthen and ensure young people's voices shape our work. To do this, YAC members will come together 11 times per year to discuss various topics related to the strategic plan, and to provide advice.

YAC meetings will occur monthly (11 months of the year) and mainly online, with two face-to-face weekend meetings per year. In addition to YAC meetings and work, YAC members will receive other optional opportunities to provide input into Orygen's work outside of meetings. These opportunities include sitting on staff interview panels, advising on specific research projects, participating in media and advocacy opportunities, and more. YAC members are expected to regularly check and respond to emails between meetings.

The YAC member role is a volunteer role recognised via an honorarium. Council members are provided with an average monthly honorarium of $180 for participation in core YAC activities and additional honorariums for optional activities. Orygen will fund all travel and accommodation (where necessary) costs for YAC members to attend face-to-face activities.

The First Nations YAC members play a crucial role in amplifying the voices of First Nations young people to leadership within Orygen. The First Nations council members will collaborate with fellow

council members to develop strategies and advice that addresses the challenges faced by First Nations youth, particularly in youth mental health. First Nations YAC members will also support the implementation of Orygen's First Nations Statement of Commitment and Cultural Strengthening Plan.

First Nations YAC members will work closely with other YAC members, Orygen's Youth Participation team, Executive Leadership Team, Orygen Board of Governance and other teams and staff members to advise on Orygen's work and research. First Nations YAC members will also connect and collaborate with Orygen's First Nation's Team and First Nation's Advisory Group to ensure a coordinated effort to positively impact the future of First Nations youth.

This role requires a minimum commitment of four hours per month and attendance at an in-person weekend event twice per year. Additional activities and opportunities may arise across the year. The First Nations YAC role requires a strong understanding of First Nations cultures, traditions and contemporary issues.
All YAC members must:

a) follow Orygen's code of conduct and values: respect, accountability, teamwork, excellence and innovation; and
b) be guided by Orygen's Statement of Commitment to the First Nations of Australia.

About Orygen
Orygen delivers cutting-edge research, policy development, innovative clinical services, and evidence-based training and education for the mental health workforce to ensure continuous improvement in the treatments and care provided to young people experiencing mental ill-health.

POSITION KEY RESPONSIBILITY AREAS

- Provide a youth perspective on the implementation of Orygen's 2026-2029 Strategy.
- Provide strategic advice to Orygen Executive Leadership Team and the Board about Orygen's activities.
- Provide advice to Orygen teams and/or staff members regarding research, specific services, policy and advocacy, projects, programs and activities.
- Provide feedback to Orygen's youth participation team on youth participation experiences and activities.
- Share experiences in media activities.
- Attend training offered, including cultural awareness training.
  Attend interviews or other activities to support with Orygen recruitment.

First Nations specific responsibilities

1. Collaborate to develop strategies and provide advice that addresses the challenges faced by First Nations youth, particularly in youth mental health.

2. Promote the preservation and revitalisation of First Nations cultures, languages, and traditions through various council-led projects and initiatives.

Connect and collaborate with Orygen's First Nations Team and First Nations Advisory Group.

EXPERIENCE / SKILLS

Experience / skills	• Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young person (aged between 18 and 25 years from the time of application.) with an Active connection to First Nations young people and communities. • Commitment to Orygen's mission to reduce the improve the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, their families &communities. • Ability to collaborate and contribute effectively in a group setting • Capacity for meaningful and sustainable participation. • Commitment to active participation throughout the two-year term – including working with the First Nations Team and First Nations Advisory Group. • Strong understanding of First Nations cultures, traditions, and contemporary issues.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Internal	• Orygen's Youth Participation team • Executive leadership team • First Nations Team • First Nations Advisory Group • Orygen Board Governance and other teams and staff members.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Unrestricted right to live and work in Australia.
- A current National Police Check will be required.
- Any offer of employment is conditional upon receipt and maintenance of a satisfactory Working with Children Check.
- Access to a computer and the internet.
- Travel to Melbourne, Victoria twice per year may be required (travel costs to be covered by Orygen)

SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELLBEING RESPONSIBILITIES

Members of the Youth Advisory Council are required to comply with all workplace health, safety and wellbeing policies and procedures of Orygen.

In addition, YAC members are expected to:

- Promote and demonstrate Orygen's high standards in relation to health, safety and wellbeing, championing a culture of safety in the workplace.
- Take responsibility for their own safety, health and wellbeing and for their colleagues and others they work alongside, as far as they are able.
- Follow policies, training and guidelines related to Workplace health, safety and wellbeing, including reporting of unsafe work practices, incidents, hazards and near miss events.
- Be committed to promoting and protecting the safety and well-being of all children and young people and embedding safeguarding practices into all our programs and services.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Confirming this position description has been read and understood by:

Name	
Signature	

Date	