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

We are seeking 14 young people to join Orygen's National Youth Advisory Council (YAC) as Council Members for a two-year term.

The YAC members will be a mix of young people currently living in Australia with:

- a lived 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.

YAC members will also have the capacity or willingness to develop skills in advising within a complex youth mental health organisation.

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 YAC will work closely with Orygen's Youth Participation team, Executive Leadership Team, Orygen Board Governance and other teams and staff members to advise on Orygen's work and research. 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.

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 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.

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

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Share experiences in media activities.
- Attend training offered, including cultural awareness training.
- Attend interviews or other activities to support with Orygen recruitment.

EXPERIENCE / SKILLS

Experience / skills	• Aged between 18 and 25 years (inclusive) from the time of application.
	• Active connection to a community or communities of young people
	• We particularly encourage young people who identify with one or more of these communities to apply:
	  ○ Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people.
	  ○ Young people living in rural, regional or remote areas;
	  ○ Neuro-divergent young people;
	  ○ Young people with a disability;
	  ○ Young people with experiences of homelessness, housing instability or financial hardship;
	  ○ LGBTQIA+ young people
	  ○ Young people from a refugee, asylum seeker or migrant background;
	  ○ Young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
	• Commitment to Orygen's mission to reduce the impact of mental ill-health on young people, their families & society.
	  ○ Your lived experience of mental health or supporting someone with mental health challenges **OR**

	○ Your passion for reducing the impact of mental ill-health on young people, their families, and society. • 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.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Internal	• Orygen's Youth Participation team • Executive Leadership Team • 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 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	