

PEER RESEARCHER – THE CANOPY STUDY

AUGUST 2026

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POSITION SUMMARY

Location:	Parkville & Sunshine		
Functional area:	Research		
Classification/ Salary:	\$73,000 – \$78,000 base commensurate with skills and experience + 12% super + access to \$15,900 NFP salary packaging		
Job level:	2		
Reports to:	Project Manager – CBD Clinical Trials		
Employment type:	Part time (0.6FTE)		
Employment length:	12-month contract with possible extension		
Direct reports	0	0	

POSITION PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Peer Researcher will work with the Project Manager and Research Assistants to ensure study processes are appropriate and effective, and to engage with research participants to facilitate their entry into the study and ensure their participation is a positive experience.

The Peer Researcher will be invited to work closely with Research Assistants to engage with new and current participants in the study. Throughout their time on the project Peer Researchers will be invited and encouraged to provide ongoing feedback about the progress of the study.

About The CanOPY Study

The CanOPY Study will test whether adding cannabidiol (CBD) to standard treatment can improve symptoms for young people with first episode psychosis (FEP) when antipsychotic medication alone has not so far been effective.

There is a great need for effective treatments in psychosis, and standard antipsychotic medications don't work for everyone. This is particularly important in the first few months of illness, because effective early treatment can reduce the duration of illness and improve longer-term outcomes for people experiencing FEP.

CBD has been shown to reduce psychotic symptoms in adults with schizophrenia. It is safe, non-intoxicating and non-addictive with few side effects. The CanOPY Study will be the first to test whether it is an effective treatment in FEP. This will be the first study to test its efficacy in FEP.

REVOLUTION IN MIND

The study will be recruiting participants in Melbourne and Perth over a two-year period, starting in early 2026.

POSITION FOCUS

	Key responsibility area	Percentage
1	Participant engagement and support	50%
2	Input into study processes	25%
3	Steering committee membership	13%
4	Contributions to presentations and publications	12%

POSITION KEY RESPONSIBILITY AREAS

- 1. Participant engagement and support**
 - Facilitate participant approaches
 - Support participants during the consent process
 - Support participant engagement during the trial intervention period
 - Identify areas for improving participant engagement and experience
 - Attend initial introductory meet and greets and supporting consent appointments with participants, parents/carers and research assistants, and being a point of contact for participants with questions about the study.
 - Attend medical reviews with the study doctor as support for participants.
- 2. Input into study processes**
 - Provide ongoing feedback regarding study processes and procedures to study team
 - Identify areas for process revision or implementation
 - Provide consultation and advice regarding how processes can be improved or implemented.
 - Contribute to the development and refinement of study resources like participant information materials.
- 3. Steering Committee membership**
 - Attend monthly steering committee meetings and provide insight or strategic advice.
 - Provide updates to committee regarding study progress and procedures relevant to the peer researcher position
 - Provide advice at meetings regarding participant engagement and experience, study processes and procedures
- 4. Contributions to presentations and publications**
 - Development of content to present or publish in line with the peer researcher's interests
 - Invitations to contribute to presentations or publications prepared by the study team.

EDUCATION / QUALIFICATIONS

Desirable	• Any qualification relating to health service research, youth mental health or peer work
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EXPERIENCE / SKILLS

Experience / skills	• Aged 18-25 and based in Melbourne. • Personal lived experience of psychosis (personal or carer) • Interested in engaging with research participants.
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	• Good computer skills including knowledge of Microsoft Word and Outlook as well as familiarity with online social networking platforms. • Knowledge of the youth mental health system and support services for young people. • Experience, knowledge, or career interest in technology • Capacity to solve problems effectively, engage with, and work creatively in partnership with young people and senior investigators. • Experience or willingness to undertake basic research related tasks (e.g., data collection for questionnaires and analysis if you want). Strong verbal communication skills • Strong interpersonal skills • Ability to work in a team environment • Ability to work with a diverse range of people
Personal attributes	• Interest in novel biological treatments in mental health. • Willingness and ability to communicate an attitude of hope and optimism to young people. • Ability to work effectively independently and in a team. • Excellent time management skills. • Interest in health services research, co-design and participatory research methodologies, mental health advocacy, or youth advocacy. • Interest in lived experience collaboration in research. • Ability to be empathetic, collaborative and curious in their work

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Internal	• CanOPY Study Chief Investigator • CanOPY Study Project Manager • CanOPY Study Research Assistants
External	• CanOPY Study participants and potential participants • Participants' family members • Clinicians referring participants to the CanOPY Study • CanOPY Steering Committee

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. • 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. • A current Victorian driver's licence. • In line with government guidelines, this position may need to be based at home during certain periods. As such a reliable internet connection will be required. • Occasional out of hours, evening and/or weekend work may be required.
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SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELLBEING RESPONSIBILITIES

Employees are required to comply with all workplace health, safety and wellbeing policies and procedures of Orygen.

In addition, employees 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.
- You may encounter sensitive information related to mental health as part of your work. Being aware of this and how it could affect you and planning accordingly is essential.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Confirming this position description has been read and understood by:

Name	[insert name]
Signature	[insert signature]
Date	[insert date]