
POSITION DESCRIPTION

PEER RESEARCHER - GAMMA STUDY



Location:	Parkville
Division:	Research
Classification / Salary:	\$67,000 - \$72,000 per annum (pro rata) commensurate with skills and experience
Employment type:	Part-time (0.4 FTE) position available for 12 months
Position reports to:	Principal Investigator

1. POSITION SUMMARY

The Youth Peer Researcher – GAMMA study will work within a research team to provide better ways to guide treatment selection for young people with a first episode of psychosis. We aim to find ways to give an early indication of which treatments will suit which person, and therefore reduce the time taken to prescribe effective medication. To do this, we are testing whether a particular EEG measure (a measure of a person's brain activity) is related to how effective medication is at improving their symptoms.

The Youth Peer Researcher will be involved at all stages of the study but will have particular contribution to the engagement of young people with psychosis with the study, and to developing and maintaining the relationship with the clinical teams supporting them. The role will also include assisting with data collection and with communicating about the study to the public.

2. POSITION CONTEXT

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

We are a complex organisation. Our activities and workforce are diverse and include:

- Five headspace centres in Craigieburn, Glenroy, Melton, Sunshine and Werribee that deliver primary clinical services to young people and are operated by Orygen.
- The Centre for Youth Mental Health, a University of Melbourne research and teaching department that is wholly seconded into Orygen. Centre staff are provided with Orygen email addresses and have the use of Orygen systems.
- Orygen Specialist Program (formerly referred to as Orygen Youth Health Clinical Program), a tertiary clinical service that is currently operated by North Western Mental Health, co-located with us at Parkville, Sunshine and Glenroy and also operating at sites in Footscray, and Wyndham. Whilst not under the governance of Orygen, Orygen Specialist Program works in close partnership with us.
- Orygen Digital, which develops and rolls out online clinical platforms that are fully integrated with 'in-person' clinical services.

- A training and development unit providing online and face to face training for the mental health workforce both nationally and internationally.
- A policy think tank drawing on Orygen's research and clinical expertise and partnering and collaborating with key content experts from Australia and around the world to advise government policymakers.
- Centralised professional support functions enabling the organisation to achieve strategic and operational objectives.

Orygen is the world's leading research and knowledge translation organisation focusing on mental ill-health in young people.

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 AND OUTCOMES

The Youth Peer Recruiter will:

1. Research
 - Assist in recruiting young people to take part in our research and support their participation through advice and being present in peer support activities.
 - Develop and maintain relationships with clinical staff to facilitate recruitment.
 - Assist in developing innovative ways to inform young people about our research, particularly those with a current episode of psychotic illness.
 - Participate in EEG data collection.
 - Maintain accurate study records on RPMS.
 - The production of conference and seminar papers and publications and attendance and presentations at conferences and seminars where appropriate.
 - Contribute to production of research outputs through writing and reviewing manuscripts and presentations.
 - Play a leading role in communication of our research to the public, particularly young people and their families.
 - A willingness to use their own lived experience within the context of the role.
2. Lived experience leadership
 - Attend and actively participate in fortnightly Research Leadership Team meetings.
 - Promote peer research throughout the organization and demonstrate lived experience values.
 - Time permitting, advise other research projects and grants on lived experience participation in research.
3. Knowledge translation
 - Oversee the development of resources to inform clinicians, young people, and families about clozapine indication, prescribing, and what young people can expect.
 - Facilitate consultation with young people in the development of such resources.

5. SELECTION CRITERIA

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

5.1 Essential

- Aged between 18 and 25 years for the duration of their employment term in this role.
- Personal lived experience of mental ill health, preferably related to psychotic disorders.
- Ability to relevantly translate lived experience to support research outcomes and engagement.
- Passion, energy, and determination to engage young people in research.
- Capacity to engage with clinical teams to support research participation.
- Capacity and willingness to give presentations and interviews to media and general public, particularly young people.
- Ability to work effectively independently and in a team.
- Excellent time management skills.

5.2 Desirable

- Interest in youth mental health research.
- Knowledge of the youth mental health system and support services for young people.

6. PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL KNOWLEDGE

The successful candidate will be expected to have:

- Knowledge of the common mental health, substance use, and social problems that are faced by young people.
- A commitment to learning about issues of ethics and confidentiality, and a willingness to comply with privacy legislation in relation to the health care of young people.

7. 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.
- Travel to other Orygen workplaces is likely to be required (for example, to attend clinical meetings).
- Occasional out of hours work may be required.
- This role will initially commence work remotely from home. The successful incumbent must have confidential home office space and reliable internet connection.
- Successful applicants will be required to provide proof of COVID-19 Vaccination prior to commencement.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Confirming this position description has been read and understood by:

Name:	
Signature:	
Date:	