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## ONLINE YOUTH PEER WORKER

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### JANUARY 2022

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<b>Location:</b>	Hybrid work – Parkville and Remote
<b>Division:</b>	Orygen Digital
<b>Classification/ Salary Range:</b>	Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010, Social and Community Services Employee Level 2  \$57,532-\$62,777
<b>Employment type:</b>	Part-time (0.6 to 0.8 FTE) fixed term position available for until 30 June 2023
<b>Position reports to:</b>	Peer Work Project Officer, Orygen Digital

## 1. POSITION SUMMARY

The Online Youth Peer Worker position within Orygen Digital is responsible for the delivery of peer support to young people on Orygen Digital's Moderated Online Social Therapy (MOST) platforms. Online Youth Peer Workers are committed, passionate young people who have personal experience with mental health, physical health, alcohol and other drug use, work and study or caring for someone who has faced these challenges. Online Youth Peer Workers intentionally share this lived experience to young people on the platform in order to guide young people through the mental health journey and/or supporting them through their time on MOST. The Peer Work role works alongside young people aged 12-25 on both MOST (15-25) and MOST Under 15s (12-14).

Online Youth Peer Workers will receive training and ongoing support and supervision from Orygen Digital's Peer Work Project Officer and Senior Clinicians and will work closely with the Clinical Moderation team and be a part of a close-knit team with other Peer Workers, MOST Clinicians and MOST Career Consultants.

## 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.

The Online Youth Peer Worker will join a growing team of researchers, clinical psychologists, software engineers, writers, artists, young people and frontline mental health professionals.

Orygen Digital designs, delivers and evaluates digital services for youth mental health, including Moderated Online Social Therapy (MOST), virtual reality and just-in-time mobile interventions. The team has recently been awarded significant government support to disseminate MOST to youth mental health services across Victoria.

### 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.

Orygen is the world's leading research and knowledge translation organisation focusing on mental ill-health in young people. Working side-by-side with young people, our partners and one another, we're redefining what's possible in global research, policy, education and clinical care. Find out more on our [website](#).

### 4. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND OUTCOMES

#### 4.1 The Online Youth Peer Worker will be responsible for:

- Listening to, validating and providing information to young people experiencing mental ill-health on an online social network
- Providing one on one peer support to young people online.
- Developing and writing relevant and engaging therapeutic posts to populate MOST social networks.
- Promoting methods of self-care to young people from the perspective of a peer with a lived experience of challenges with mental health, physical health, drug and alcohol use, work and study or caring for someone with mental-ill health
- Being clear with MOST clients about their role as a peer support worker and what support they can and cannot provide.
- Informing clinical and youth engagement staff about any risk issues and concerns related to MOST clients
- Following safety and confidentiality guidelines both personally and for any MOST clients.
- Passing on any feedback received by MOST clients to youth engagement staff and clinical team members
- Modelling appropriate usage of the platform to set the norms for appropriate behaviour online.
- Collaborating with clinical staff and other peer workers to ensure the safety of young people online.
- Actively participating in group supervision sessions with clinical and non-clinical staff.
- Contributing to user experience (UX) aspects of the platform by attending occasional workshops, reporting bugs and making suggestions for how the platform can be improved and made more relevant to the young people who access MOST.

- Taking opportunities within the organisation to share their personal experience they are comfortable to share in order to improve the MOST platform.
- Complying with and support others to comply with Orygen's policies and procedures, including taking appropriate action to hold others accountable and promote a workplace culture that is safe, diverse and inclusive.

## 5. SELECTION CRITERIA

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

### 5.1 Essential

- Aged between 18 and 30 years for the duration of their employment term.
- Personal experience of challenges or have lived experience of the following: mental health, service usage, physical health, alcohol and other drug and/or work and study.
- Passion, energy and determination to make a difference to the health outcomes for young people.
- Good computer skills including knowledge of Microsoft Word and Outlook as well as familiarity with online social networking platforms.
- Willingness and ability to communicate an attitude of hope and optimism to young people using their lived experience.
- Knowledge of the youth mental health system and support services for young people.
- Experience and/or knowledge of peer work principles as they apply in a youth health setting.
- Capacity to problem solve effectively, engage with and work creatively in partnership with young people.
- Ability to work effectively independently and in a team composed of other young people, clinical and non-clinical staff.
- Excellent time management skills.

### 5.2 Desirable

- Interest in innovation and digital tools for youth mental health.
- Interest in either of the following: content creation, creative writing, mental health advocacy, youth advocacy.

## 6. 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.
- 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.

## 7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Confirming this position description has been read and understood by:

Name:	
Signature:	
Date:	