
YOUTH PEER WORKER - YPARC

SEPTEMBER 2022

Location:	Parkville
Division:	Orygen YPARC
Classification:	Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award (2010), Social and Community Services Employee, Level 2
Employment Type:	Part-time (0.8 FTE) permanent position
Position reports to:	Youth Wellbeing Discipline Lead - YPARC

1. POSITION SUMMARY

Youth Peer Workers are committed, passionate young people who have personal lived experience of challenges and/or difficulties with mental ill health. This may include challenges with physical ill health, alcohol and other drug use, work and study challenges or caring for someone with mental ill health. Youth Peer Workers intentionally share this lived experience with young people who access headspace services in order to guide young people through their mental health journey and/or supporting them through their time with the YPARC.

The Youth Peer Worker will work within the newly established Youth Prevention and Recovery Centre (YPARC). This position will support young people who are admitted to the YPARC service who present with moderate to high intensity needs, to facilitate increased connection, functional recovery and psychosocial and life skills.

This role will require self-motivation and direction, demonstrating a sound ability to engage with young people, carers and other Orygen staff. The Youth Peer Worker will work closely with and be supported by the YPARC team and will be supported by regular staff meetings and supervision.

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 Orygen Strategic Plan identifies developing, delivering and rolling-out best service models as a Strategic Priority, namely ‘developing, implementing and evaluating an exemplar seamless integrated clinical service model for young people in the north and west region of Melbourne.’

This position focuses on the emerging Youth Prevention & Recovery Care ‘YPARC’ centre. The Orygen YPARC centre (YPARC) is a pivotal sub-acute program supporting young people transition to the community from inpatient psychiatric care, or to intervene early and prevent further deterioration that may lead to inpatient psychiatric care. The YPARC will also support young people with substance use issues. The YPARC will become a pivotal component of service delivery within the evolving Orygen service system.

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, LGBTIQ+ people & culturally and linguistically diverse people.

4. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES/OUTCOMES

The Youth Peer Worker will:

- Engage and support young people to access appropriate supports within the YPARC and community.
- Participate in the ‘meet and greet’ and admission process to understand young people’s needs.
- Participate in and develop functional recovery and life skills activities and relationship building activities.
- Promote the YPARC by communicating regularly with, building and maintaining collaborative working relationships with health and welfare agencies and the general community.
- Work with young people in a non-clinical way that values the shared experiences of a peer and supports the young person to appropriately engage with services appropriate to their needs.
- Facilitate or co-facilitate programs within the YPARC for young people i.e. groups.
- Promote, engage and support young people within clinical research.
- Liaise with internal and external stakeholders.
- Seek support and consultation from team members and senior staff as required.
- Comply 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.
- The role may incorporate other service development activities and responsibilities as directed by the YPARC Wellbeing Discipline Lead.

5. SELECTION CRITERIA

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

5.1 Essential

- Aged between 18 and 30 years.
 - Personal experience of challenges with any of the following: mental health, physical health, alcohol and other drug and/or work and study.
 - Motivation of others in the community, requiring energy, passion and determination.
 - Experience or knowledge of peer work/youth participation principles/frameworks.
 - Capacity to problem solve effectively, engage and work creatively with young people.
 - Capacity and willingness to conduct presentations and programs to large groups of people, including young people and adults.
 - Ability to work effectively in a team.
 - Excellent organisational, interpersonal and communication skills (written and verbal) to communicate warmly and effectively with young people, liaise, build relationships and partnerships, consult and negotiate with a wide variety of stakeholders.
 - Commitment to supporting clinical research within the service.
 - Knowledge and support of frameworks of early intervention, de-stigmatisation, diversity, inclusion, and non-discrimination.
 - Knowledge of the common mental health, substance use and social problems faced by young people.
 - A commitment to learning about the different types of organisations involved in mental health and drug and alcohol service delivery to young people.
 - A commitment to learning about issues of ethics and confidentiality and willingness to comply with privacy legislation in relation to the health care of young people.
 - Excellent computer skills with a demonstrated ability in word processing, presentation programs and databases as required.
- ### 5.2 Highly Desirable
- Experience in the planning and provision of community engagement and capacity building activities.
 - Experience with or knowledge of group leadership and/or facilitation.
 - Current enrolment or completion of a peer work or relevant tertiary course.

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.
- Occasional out of hours work may be required.
- Some evening and/or weekend work may be required.
- 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.
- You may be required to travel interstate or intrastate on occasion.
- In line with current Government guidelines, this position may be based at home from time to time. As such a reliable internet connection will be required.
- Successful applicants will be required to provide proof of COVID-19 Vaccination prior to commencement.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Confirming this position description has been read and understood by:

Name:	
Signature:	
Date:	