

West Mental Health and Wellbeing

Local General Practitioner – mental health and alcohol and drug focus

position number	
status	Part Time, Fixed term (TP)
FTE	0.2 FTE- Werribee site
network	Services
agreement	AMA & cohealth General Practitioners Enterprise Agreement 2023-2027
classification	GP
reports to	Wyndham Program Facilitator

about us	cohealth is a not-for-profit community health organisation. We provide health and support services in Melbourne's CBD, northern and western suburbs, and on the East Coast of Tasmania. Our work is guided by our Strategy 2025–2035, a bold pathway toward our vision of healthy communities, healthy people.
what we do	We partner with communities to improve health and wellbeing and address health and social inequality. Our aspiration is for healthier communities where everyone – regardless of background or geography – can access quality care and experience better health and social outcomes.
our organisation	cohealth is a community health organisation with an ambitious strategic plan. We exist to improve health and wellbeing for all, specialising in support for those experiencing challenges to being healthy and well.
our people	People who work at cohealth are committed to designing and delivering high quality health care and promoting and protecting human rights.
diversity and inclusion	We want people of all ages, gender identities, sexualities, cultural backgrounds, and abilities to feel safe to bring their whole selves to cohealth. We are a Rainbow Tick Accredited organisation with over

20% of our staff from the LGBTQIA+ community. To find out more about us click [here](#)

network overview

Services Network

Our vision is for healthy communities and healthy people. We do this by providing care for individuals, community, and society, improving the health and wellbeing of the communities we serve, and addressing inequality in society.

We champion universal health care and human rights and strive for health and social equity. This is what we mean when we say care for all. Care for all is achieved when all people have access to the full range of health services they need, when and where they need them, and without financial hardship.

cohealth's services network delivers strong, people-centred primary and community health care that prioritises individuals and communities experiencing inequality. Our services focus not only on preventing and treating disease and illness, but also on helping to improve wellbeing and quality of life.

position overview and summary

The West Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals are part of Victoria's reform of the public mental health system, delivering accessible, community-based support for adults aged 26 years and over experiencing mental health concerns and psychological distress. Operated in Melbourne's west by cohealth, the service provides free, walk-in or internally referred support as a "front door" to mental health care.

The service is multidisciplinary and recovery-oriented, integrating mental health, alcohol and other drug (AOD), and physical health support. It is designed for people whose needs are not fully met by primary care alone and aims to provide timely, coordinated, and non-stigmatising care close to home.

The General Practitioner (GP) provides short-term, trauma-informed primary care within the multidisciplinary team, focusing on assessment and management of mental health conditions, co-occurring AOD use, and related physical health needs.

The GP delivers:

- Short-term clinical consultations for stabilisation and support
- Assessment and management of mental health and AOD presentations
- Prescribing, including medications for alcohol and other drug treatment where appropriate
- Brief interventions and harm reduction-focused care
- Secondary consultation to the multidisciplinary team

Care is time-limited and provided to clients who are actively engaged with the Local service and do not have access to, or are unable to engage with, ongoing general practice care.

The GP works collaboratively with mental health clinicians, AOD workers, lived experience staff, and partner services to ensure integrated, recovery-oriented care and appropriate transition to ongoing community-based services.

The role is salaried will be supported by a AOD experienced nurse for Healthworks when onsite. As this role cannot bill to Medicare, the salary will be adjusted to include the bulk billing incentive.

key accountabilities

clinical care

- Provide comprehensive assessment and brief mental health and AOD-related interventions
- Prescribe, review, monitor medications where appropriate, using best-practice and shared decision-making principles
- Assess and manage physical health needs that impact mental health, including:
 - preventive and chronic care (e.g. health checks, blood pressure, diabetes, COPD)
 - diagnostic referrals (e.g. pathology, radiology)
 - minor procedures (e.g. wound dressings)
 - general physical examinations
 - Sexual health
- Develop GP Management Plans and contribute to shared-care arrangements with internal and external providers
- Monitor and manage risk collaboratively, using trauma-informed, mental health recovery oriented and dignity-of-risk principles
- Provide secondary consultation and clinical advice to Local staff on medical, AOD and psychiatric interface issues
- Support safe and timely transition of care, including structured exit planning and handover to ongoing community GPs or services

collaboration and service integration

- Participate in multidisciplinary meetings, case reviews, and Client Planning Roundtables
- Work in partnership with lived experience workers, psychosocial staff, Clinical mental health professionals, AOD specialists, and Area Mental Health service partners
- Facilitate safe, timely and warm handovers to and from other services including step up and step-down pathways with Mercy Area Mental health service and other service system interfaces such as AOD, primary care, crisis, acute
- Contribute to collaborative supported decision-making with consumers and carers
- Link GPs with existing MATOD training and support mechanisms
- Contribute to the development of referral pathways and shared care arrangements with other services in the area
- Contribute clinical expertise to the identification of AOD-related service gaps in Wyndham and inform development of coordinated evidence-based system responses

<p>trauma informed and recovery-oriented practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practise in line with trauma-informed, rights-based, culturally safe and recovery-oriented principles • Engage in relational approaches that reduce re-traumatisation and avoid coercive practice wherever possible
<p>culture and teamwork</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion cohealth's culture to promote teamwork, employee development and empowerment to foster a culture of high performance and a workforce which demonstrates behaviours consistent with cohealth's values • Modelling respectful communication, ethical conduct, positive and compassionate behaviour always
<p>professional development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain their professional competence for General Practice through participation in the RACGP QA and CME Program, Centrewide in-service programs, and sector-related training • Are bound professionally by a "Duty of Care" and therefore must be aware and act according to the Profession's Code of Ethics and Standards of Care as set by the Australian Medical Association and Royal Australian College of General Practitioners • Maintain all client personal and health information within the limits of the Health Records Act, 2000, National Privacy Principles 2001 and per the RACGP "Code of Practice for the Management of Health Information in General Practice" • Maintain professional, accurate and contemporaneous patient records and other documentation in accordance with the RACGP Standards of General Practice, 4th Edition • Administer treatments in accordance with the policies of cohealth
<p>quality and continuous improvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the principles of continuous improvement as contained in cohealth's quality system and ensure compliance with cohealth policies/procedures • Contribute to the implementation and improvement of the quality systems within cohealth, in particular the Services Network, and ensure compliance with documented procedures and processes
<p>health & safety compliance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and maintain a working environment that, as far as reasonably practicable, is safe and without risks to the health, safety and wellbeing of all (employees, contractors, volunteers) • Maintain awareness of and compliance with health and safety policies and procedures to maintain a safe working environment • Take corrective action to remedy safety hazards or risks and restore a safe working environment

position requirements

- Fellowship of RACGP (or equivalent vocational registration)
- Current unrestricted registration with AHPRA
- Accredited to prescribe Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT) and other forms of pharmacotherapy
- Working with Children's Check (WWCC)
- Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check (NCCHC)
- Immunisation Category A to be produced for sighting upon request

key selection criteria

Qualifications & Registration

- Registered Medical Practitioner with AHPRA.
- FRACGP or equivalent highly desirable
- Experience and/or credentialing in mental health and/or AOD strongly preferred
- MATOD accreditation
- Demonstrated experience or strong interest in addiction medicine

Clinical Capability

- Demonstrated experience in mental health, AOD, and trauma-informed practice in community settings
- Ability to provide shared care, medication review, and brief interventions within a multidisciplinary team

Collaboration & Communication

- Proven ability to work effectively with lived experience, psychosocial, AOD and clinical partners
- Skilled in collaborative decision-making within a multidisciplinary team and respectful documentation
- A desire to develop a new program, strong analytical skills and the ability to critically evaluate activities

Cultural Safety & Inclusion

- Demonstrated commitment to equity, inclusion and culturally safe practice for diverse communities

Governance, Risk & Accountability

- Ability to practise within duty of care while upholding dignity of risk and supported decision-making
- Commitment to quality, continuous improvement and safe record keeping
- Proficient in the use of Best Practice client management system and TrakCare

cohealth is a child safe and equal opportunity employer that offers generous salary packaging and opportunity to undertake professional training and development opportunities. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and those who speak languages other than English are encouraged to apply.

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