

Position Description

Position Title	Perinatal Emotional Health Clinician
Position Number	30027078
Division	Clinical Operations
Department	Mental Health – Primary Mental Health Team
Enterprise Agreement	Victorian Public Mental Health Services Enterprise Agreement 2024-2028
Classification Description	Registered Psych Nurse Gr4, Social Worker Gr4, Occupational Therapist Gr4
Classification Code	NP75-NP77, HR25-HR28, HR9-HR12
Reports to	Manager
Management Level	Non Management
Staff Capability Statement	Please click here for a link to staff capabilities statement
Mandatory Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Police Record Check • Registration with Professional Regulatory Body or relevant Professional Association • Drivers Licence • Immunisation Requirements

Bendigo Health

Bendigo Health is a leading regional health service, learn more about us by visiting our website: [Bendigo Health Website - About Bendigo Health](#)

As an organisation we are committed to delivering safe, inclusive and high-quality care to our diverse communities across the Loddon Mallee Region. We value and respect the unique backgrounds, cultures and experiences of the people we serve and those who work with us.

We are a proud child safe organisation, dedicated to the safety, wellbeing and voice of all children and young people. We are committed to creating a culturally safe and welcoming environment where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples—adults, children and families—are respected, supported and empowered to express and celebrate their culture.

Our Vision

To be a trusted regional healthcare service recognised for delivering exceptional care, being a great place to work, and being deeply connected to our community.

Our Values

PASSIONATE – We are passionate about doing our best – for our patients, our colleagues and our community.

ACCOUNTABLE – We take ownership of our actions and outcomes, always striving for integrity and improvement.

CARING – We care deeply for our community – and our community cares for us. Compassion is at the heart of everything we do.

TRUSTWORTHY - We are open, honest and respectful in all that we do – earning the trust placed in us every day.

The Position

The Perinatal Emotional Health Program (PEHP) is part of Bendigo Health’s Mental Health Department and services the Loddon Southern Mallee Region catchment.

The Victorian 10-year mental health plan released in 2015 guided investment to improve mental health outcomes for Victorians. Implications for perinatal mental health focus on improved prevention, early intervention and treatment for vulnerable mothers in the perinatal period.

The PEHP worker will maintain a close relationship with Maternity and Maternal & Child Health Services and the Psychiatry Services, Parent Infant Unit (PIU). The PEHP delivers community-based services and limited outreach to support parents who experience moderate to severe mental health illness during the perinatal period to promote parent infant attachment using a family inclusive approach.

Treatment and care are sensitive to gender and culture, informed by an understanding of responses to trauma, and responsive to the contexts of patients’ lives and communities. Care is provided in the most appropriate and least restrictive setting.

Responsibilities and Accountabilities

The Perinatal Emotional Health Program aims to deliver services consistent with Bendigo Health Mental Health Services philosophy of care (BHMHS). BHMHS philosophy of care highlights the importance of evidence-based treatment and patient centred care, underpinned by recovery-oriented principles and values.

Key Responsibilities

In a multi-disciplinary integrated community mental health team, and under the direction of the Manager and Consultant Psychiatrist(s):

- Improve the identification of parents who require mental health support during the perinatal period, including those who experience miscarriage or the loss of a pregnancy or infant.
- Improve access to appropriate treatment and support for the primary parent at risk of, or who experiences mental health illness and their families.
- Access community-based services for parents with infants who experience moderate to severe mental health illness, or those with a pre-existing condition at risk of relapses or poor mental health outcomes.
- Support improved screening, early intervention and treatment of parents, infants and siblings.

- Deliver timely, comprehensive mental health assessment and treatment for patients who experience mental health illnesses.
- Maximise resilience and protective factors to promote primary parents' recovery, parent infant attachment and optimise infant health and development.
- Minimise the vulnerability and risks of mental illness on second parents and dependent children that may arise from primary parents treatment approaches or return to a home environment or residence.
- Improve referral pathways and links between communities' providers that support parents at risk or who experience mental health illness and their families during the perinatal period.
- Undertake screening of second parents and significant others and provide appropriate support and referrals as required.
- Strengthen the workforce capability to support parents at risk of, or who experiences perinatal mental health illness and their families.
- Provide perinatal specific consultation and liaison services to area mental health clinicians during the acute phase of the mental health illness.
- Support universal services to improve identification such as maternity services, general practitioners, maternal and child health nurses, as required, and coordinate services to prevent relapse.
- Provide strong leadership, clinical supervision, mentorship and preceptorship to junior staff/students.
- Depending on service requirements, work flexible hours, as directed.
- Perform other duties as directed.

Key Selection Criteria

Essential

1. Post graduate diploma in Mental Health and / or related field (ie. Social Work or Occupational Therapy) or completion of a specialist undergraduate psychiatric nursing program or completion of education / training to be eligible for registration as a Division 3 Nurse
2. Extensive work experience, usually at least five years, and expertise and knowledge of the mental health field, maternity services and associated health and welfare services
3. Demonstrated ability to work independently and utilise initiative to develop the role of providing service across maternity services, maternal & child health services, community-based organisations and specialist mental health services including the Parent Infant Unit
4. Extensive experience working with the Mental Health Act 2014 and relevant state-wide Psychiatric Service Frameworks Procedures and Guidelines and Bendigo Health policy and procedures
5. Extensive experience and knowledge of the epidemiology, aetiology, assessment, diagnosis and management of people with mental disorders, including clinical assessment and treatment interventions appropriate to perinatal depression and the child parent dad
6. Extensive experience in liaising and consulting with relevant family members, team members, and a broad range of health professionals and community agencies
7. Demonstrated evidence of participation in the provision and evaluation of consultation education and training programs, education and training to other staff, and commitment to ongoing professional development

Desirable

8. High level communication skills with the ability to develop effective working relationships. A personal approach which is positive, enthusiastic, friendly and helpful

Generic Responsibilities

All Bendigo Health staff are required to:

- Adhere to the **Victorian Government's Code of Conduct**
- Uphold **Occupational Health and Safety** responsibilities, including self-care, safeguarding others, and participating in safety initiatives and reporting.
- Comply with all **Bendigo Health policies and procedures**, including those related to clinical, managerial, and standard work practices.
- Follow **Infection Control** procedures to prevent cross-contamination and ensure the health and safety of all.
- Maintain **strict confidentiality** regarding all organisational, patient, and staff information.
- Engage in **continuous quality improvement** activities aligned with the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards (NSQHSS).
- Recognise and respect **diversity**, fostering inclusive practices in the workplace and service delivery.
- Support research activities in alignment with the National Clinical Trials Governance Framework to ensure high-quality, safe, and ethical clinical trials and research practices across Bendigo Health
- Staff must carry out all lawful and reasonable directions and comply with relevant professional standards and ethical codes.
- Safeguard children and young people in our care, by ensuring that your interactions are positive and safe, and report any suspicions or concerns of abuse by any person internal or external to Bendigo Health.
- Maintain ability to perform the inherent requirements of this role. Inherent requirements are the essential tasks necessary to perform this role, including reasonable adjustments. Bendigo Health is committed to a safe workplace that supports all employees. The role may require specific physical and cognitive abilities, which can be discussed with the manager during recruitment or at any time. We understand that personal circumstances can change and impact your ability to meet these requirements; additional policies are available to guide you through this process. Please request the relevant procedures for more information.

All Bendigo Health sites, workplaces and vehicles are smoke free.

This position description is intended to describe the general nature and level of work that is to be performed by the person appointed to the role. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required. Any elements of this document may be changed at Bendigo Health's discretion and activities may be added, removed or amended at any time.