

## Position Description

Position Title	Senior Mental Health Clinician - Social Worker
Position Number	30027264
Division	Clinical Operations
Department	Psychiatry Parent and Infant
Enterprise Agreement	Victorian Public Mental Health Services Enterprise Agreement 2024-2028
Classification Description	Social Worker G3 Y1 – Y4
Classification Code	YC46 - YC49
Reports to	Nurse Unit Manager
Management Level	Non Management
Staff Capability Statement	Please click here for a link to <a href="#">staff capabilities statement</a>
Mandatory Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Police Record Check</li> <li>• Working with Children Check</li> <li>• Drivers Licence</li> <li>• Immunisation Requirements</li> </ul>

## 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

This position works as part of the Allied Health team, and provides Social Work services to Psychiatric Inpatient Services through mental health assessment, treatment and support to patients.

The team also provides advice, education and support to carers, family and health care providers. Working within the multi-disciplinary team, this position functions to strengthen and enhance the contribution of discipline specific skills, resources and experience available to patients of the service, their carers and other involved services and parties

All units are staffed by a multi-disciplinary team made up of Psychiatrists, Medical Officers, Nursing staff, Occupational Therapists, Carer & Consumer roles and Social Workers, incorporating aspects of the Safewards model utilising the associated interventions.

The Social Worker will ensure the delivery of service is in accordance with the Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022 and the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005, and is in accordance with Bendigo Health's vision, values and policies & procedures.

## Responsibilities and Accountabilities

### Key Responsibilities

- Provide Social Work services to inpatients and members of their family/support network
- As a key member of a multi-disciplinary team provide advanced assessment, treatment planning, recovery focused discharge planning and evidence-based psychological therapies (individual/group) for parent/s and infants in the Parent Infant Unit
- Provide counselling and therapeutic interventions to support parents in managing emotional challenges related to pregnancy, childbirth and early parenting.
- Address the issues of support for patients of the service, and their carers and service providers, with social work services aimed towards assisting them to function in the least restrictive environment
- Maintain current knowledge of community services/resources that can assist patients and families
- Connecting families with additional resources, such as paediatricians, financial assistance and parenting programs/support groups to support their overall well-being
- Carry out comprehensive psychosocial assessments of patients and the family initial referral
- Examine any 'at risk' factors and make appropriate social work intervention
- Liaise with, and refer to, other departments of Bendigo Health
- Liaise with, and refer to, other community services
- Participate in group programs to provide opportunity for education and support for patients and their families/carers
- Participate in the development and implementation of programs and initiatives within the Parent Infant Unit, aimed at improving perinatal and infant mental health

- Oversee the development and implementation of reports and applications for a range of medical/legal processes
- Assist in developing and enhancing secure and nurturing parent-child relationships
- Recognising and reporting cases of child abuse or neglect and taking appropriate steps to safeguard the welfare of the child
- Provide mentoring of PIU staff promoting skill development and knowledge acquisition for the treatment and care of parent/s and children
- Maintain accurate documentation and reports as needed by Bendigo Health
- Act as a role model and leader within the discipline of Social Work to peers and junior staff
- Advocating for the needs and rights of pregnant women, new parents, and infants within the Parent Infant Unit

## Key Selection Criteria

### Essential

#### Qualifications

1. Degree in Social Work recognised by the AASW and eligibility for AASW national accreditation status and ability to satisfy the requirements of the Bendigo Health Allied Health Credentialing and professional Standards document

#### Specialist Expertise

2. Previous experience in working with parents and families with infants experiencing parental psychosocial and psychiatric problems in the perinatal period with demonstrated knowledge of the impact of mental health problems and mental illness on parenting, parent-infant relationships and infant development
3. Capacity and commitment to work collaboratively in partnership with service providers across a range of sectors and build new cross sector links as required
4. Sound knowledge of the Victorian Mental Health Act 2014, the Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022, the Child Youth and Family Act 2005 and other relevant legislation
5. Evidence of a commitment to ongoing professional development

#### Personal Quality, Knowledge and Skills

6. Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate effectively with patients, families/carers, colleagues, service providers and the community
7. A personal approach which is positive, enthusiastic, friendly and helpful

### Desirable

8. Approved post registration tertiary qualification relevant to perinatal and infant mental health and extensive clinical practice in the field of perinatal and infant mental health
9. Ability to introduce new concepts through innovation, influencing negotiating and persuasion skills
10. Demonstrated experience in providing assessment and evidence-based parenting or group interventions relevant to the perinatal period

## 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.*