



**headspace**

National Youth Mental Health Foundation

Level 2, South Tower

485 La Trobe Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Tel +61 3 9027 0100 Fax +61 3 9027 0199

[headspace.org.au](http://headspace.org.au)

## Position Description

### Consultant – MHE (Clinical)

**Location:** NSW, QLD, VIC, ACT, TAS, WA, SA and NT

**Department:** **headspace** in Schools

**Salary range:** HS5

**Employment Type:** Full Time - Maximum Term

**Approved By:** Julia Smith

**Date Approved:** September 2017

**Agreed By:**

**Date Agreed:**

---

#### 1. HEADSPACE PURPOSE

To build the resilience of young people and the future potential of Australia by delivering effective youth mental health services in partnership with young people, their families and their local communities.

#### 2. HEADSPACE VALUES

It is a requirement of all **headspace** positions that work will be undertaken in line with the **headspace** values as follows:

- Innovative – We have the courage to explore new ideas and take new approaches
- Collaborative – We bring the right people together to get the best result
- Inclusive – We respect and value diversity and believe everyone counts
- Achieve – We are responsive to community needs and deliver on expectations
- Passionate – We are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of young people and their families

### 3. POSITION SUMMARY

The Consultant – MHE (Clinical) will work under the direction of the State/Territory Manager to support schools through implementation of the Mental Health in Education (MHE) Service at the State/Territory level. **headspace**, as the implementation partner, will work with *beyondblue* to deliver an interactive framework of evidenced-based information, professional advice and support to primary and secondary schools. The MHE Service through continuous professional development of educators will promote optimal social and emotional health and wellness in schools. Drawing from the experience of **headspace** School Support Service, the MHE Service provides postvention support to schools following a suicide or attempted suicide, as well supporting the school community in implementing preventative strategies.

The incumbent will support school communities to promote mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention with the goal of improving outcomes for young people and their families. Adopting an approach tailored to the needs of the school, the Consultant – MHE (Clinical) will contribute to the establishment and successful delivery of timely and evidence based postvention support to school communities to assist them to plan, respond and recover. The Consultant – MHE (Clinical) will provide a clinical response and recommendations to schools in accordance with the national clinical governance framework.

### 4. POSITION CONTEXT

Reporting to the State/Territory Manager, the Consultant – MHE (Clinical) will be a qualified mental health professional who is experienced in working in the provision of youth mental health care and delivering clinical mental health or advisory services to schools. The position calls for a motivated individual who can engage, liaise and negotiate with a broad range of stakeholders and organisations, whilst displaying excellent clinical skills. This role primarily supports teachers, leaders and schools rather than providing direct clinical services to young people.

The position also calls for skills that will enable the successful delivery of education and training packages relevant to the field of youth mental health and suicide. The role will form part of a multi-disciplinary team where clinical consultation and supervision is readily accessible. There will be intra and interstate overnight travel required for this role.

### 5. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES/OUTCOMES

The Consultant – MHE (Clinical) is responsible for the delivery of the Mental Health in Education Service provided to Australian primary and secondary schools within their area, under the direction of the State/Territory Manager. This will include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Promoting the mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention elements of the MHE program with prospective and participating schools through a relationship-based approach.
- Contribute to the establishment and successful delivery of timely and evidence based postvention support tailored to the needs of individual school communities to assist them to plan, respond and recover.
- Provide a clinical response and recommendations according to the national clinical governance framework utilising the support and direction of the MHE leadership.
- Provide primary, secondary and/or tertiary consultation, support and assistance to schools and school communities affected by suicide.
- Maintaining an ongoing relationship with participating schools so that services know who to speak to when they have a question or a challenge.

- Demonstrating the integrated framework to prospective and participating schools to assist them in implementing the components relevant for their individual circumstances, leading to the ongoing professional development of school staff.
- Maintaining relationships with prospective and participating schools through regular communication; primarily online and by phone.
- Updating their schools on new resources and materials available in the integrated program, and providing those resources directly to services as required.
- Working with Early Childhood Australia Consultants of the early learning services component of the MHE as appropriate to support early learning environments, schools and children in their transition from early learning into school.
- Undertaking strategic analysis of their assigned territory to identify prospective schools and other related challenges.
- Maintaining strategic relationships with relevant organisations within their assigned territory for the purpose of supporting their prospective and participating schools.
- Identifying advantages and comparisons of the integrated program to other products/services.
- Ensure effective use of time through proper planning and implementation processes.
- Supplying management with oral and written reports on school's needs, problems, interests, competitive activities and potential for new resources/materials to be built into the integrated framework.
- Keeping informed of updates to the framework, promotional activity of the integrated program, competitive activities and changes impacting on school environments.
- Participating in conferences and similar events related to the integrated program.
- Other duties consistent with the position where required and/or requested by the State/Territory Schools Manager.

## 6. SELECTION CRITERIA

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

### 6.1 Essential

- Approved tertiary qualifications in a relevant allied health discipline including psychology (clinical, counselling, educational, community and 4+2 or 5+1 pathways), mental health nursing, occupational therapy, social work, or counselling.
- Eligibility for membership of an appropriate professional body:
  - Psychologists, mental health nurses, and occupational therapists are required to be fully registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)
  - Social workers are required to be eligible for full membership with the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW)
  - Counsellors are required to be eligible for Level 3 or Level 4 membership of the Australian Counselling Association (ACA)
- Proven clinical skills in the provision of mental health care to young people, including risk assessments, appropriate referral and support and liaison with family and other networks.
- Working knowledge of the common social and mental health issues faced by young people.
- Highly developed communication skills, both verbal and written, with an ability to interact with a diverse range of stakeholders including young people, health and educational professionals, and other community services.
- Knowledge and understanding of current health/mental health policy issues in Australia, including applicable legislation and policy relevant to young people experiencing (or at risk of) a serious mental illness.

- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively and with a team focus.
- A current driver's licence (automatic) and use of a fully maintained motor vehicle with comprehensive insurance.
- Able and willing to travel at short notice, with overnight stays as required.

## 6.2 Desirable

- Service experience across health and education.
- Experience working within a school setting or in a wellbeing or school welfare role.
- Proficient in the development and delivery of training and education packages to a range of people.

## 7. POLICIES AND WORKPLACE PRACTICES

All **headspace** employees are required to acquaint themselves with the organisation's policies and procedures and to abide by them at all times.

It is expected that at all times, employees will:

- be respectful towards the organisation, colleagues, clients and the general public
- be cognisant with and uphold the objectives and philosophy of **headspace**
- act collaboratively with all colleagues
- act in a safe and responsible manner at all times