



**headspace**

National Youth Mental Health Foundation

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

## Position Description

### Senior Consultant – MHE (Clinical)

**Location:** NSW, QLD, VIC, and WA

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

**Salary range:** HS6

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

**Approved By:** Julia Smith

**Date Approved:** September 2017

**Agreed By:**

**Date Agreed:**

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#### 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 Senior 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 Senior 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 Senior Consultant – MHE (Clinical) will provide a clinical response and recommendations to schools in accordance with the national clinical governance framework.

The role, in consultation with the State/Territory Manager, will provide clinical oversight, governance and leadership in state/territory initiatives, strategies and projects. Furthermore, the Senior Consultant – MHE (Clinical) will assist with the induction of new staff and provide clinical supervision as required.

### 4. POSITION CONTEXT

Reporting to the State/Territory Manager, the Senior 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 will support the State/Territory Manager to provide leadership to the team and 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 Senior 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.
- Support the State/Territory Manager (SM) to develop and maintain key stakeholder relationships, particularly in health and mental health.
- In consultation with the SM, lead state/territory initiatives, strategies and projects as required.
- Work with the SM to ensure a collaborative and respectful team culture.
- Assist with the professional development of the team and induction of new staff as required.
- Provide clinical oversight and clinical governance in collaboration with the SM including all clinical work undertaken by the team.
- Provide clinical supervision as required.
- This role may be engaged to act in the SM role on occasion.
- Maintain 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)
- Substantial experience in the provision of mental health care, including completion of risk assessments, appropriate referral and support and liaison with family and other networks.
- Experience in delivering clinical mental health or advisory services to secondary schools.
- 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.
- Highly developed communication skills, both verbal and written, with experience interacting with a diverse range of stakeholders including young people, health and educational professionals, and other community services.
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively and with a team focus.
- Strong organisational and project management skills.
- Self-motivated with an ability to work in a highly productive environment with time pressures while managing multiple tasks.
- 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.

## 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