Position Description
Head of Clinical Practice – Early Psychosis

Location: Adelaide
Division: Quality and Clinical Governance
Employment Type: Full time, Maximum term
Approved By: Vikki Ryall
Date Approved: July 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 Head of Clinical Practice – Early Psychosis is tasked with developing and implementing clinical governance strategies and applying clinical expertise across the headspace Youth Early Psychosis Program (hYEPP), with a primary focus on services delivered at headspace Adelaide.

The Head of Clinical Practice – Early Psychosis will play a pivotal role in ensuring adherence to the Early Psychosis Prevention and Intervention Centre (EPPIC) model of care, and in the design and development of clinical resources.

The incumbent will work to ensure all headspace services related to early psychosis are evidence-based, developed with young people and their families and friends, underpinned by robust clinical
governance, quality and safety principles, and focussed on continuous improvement, further building the reputation of headspace Adelaide as a leader in youth mental health. Furthermore, the Head of Clinical Practice – Early Psychosis will provide clinical consultation and supervision to key leadership positions within hYEPP and will provide a point of clinical accountability for headspace Adelaide clinical programs as required.

4. POSITION CONTEXT

Reporting to the Chief Medical Officer, the Head of Clinical Practice – Early Psychosis will provide clinical leadership in the development and support of our early psychosis clinical programs, including input into strategic communications, national strategies and policies, and training packages. Operationally, the incumbent will work closely with the Manager of headspace Adelaide.

A technical expert, the incumbent will be a highly motivated and dynamic individual, who can facilitate evidence-based and integrated mental health care, with the goal of improving outcomes for young people and their families. The incumbent will possess extensive knowledge in youth mental health best practice, including a comprehensive understanding of the early detection and prevention of early psychosis. The Head of Clinical Practice – Early Psychosis will adopt a clinical advisory approach to supporting effective knowledge transfer processes and managing stakeholder relationships.

5. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES/OUTCOMES

- Provide clinical content, input and review to the design and delivery of the hYEPP to ensure services are evidence-based and clinically sound.
- Provide expert advice and recommendation on the benefits and risks of therapeutic options.
- Provide oversight to activities targeting EPPIC model fidelity.
- Strengthen clinical governance strategies and processes for direct run services in relation to early psychosis.
- Keep abreast of current research and practices across a range of therapeutic areas.
- Provide clinical advice on strategic communications and policy development.
- Provide clinical supervision to the Clinical Leads within hYEPP and be a key point of support and consultation for hYEPP clinicians, as required.
- Represent headspace at interagency forums and attend relevant meetings as required.
- Networking and participation in relevant committees, groups, and forums will be formulated to ensure the organisation is a participating member in new service models, clinical care development and integrated service delivery.
- Provide regular reports to the headspace Executive as required.
- Model and demonstrate constructive working relationships and information exchange across both with the organisation and with key external stakeholders.
- Other duties consistent with the position where required and/or requested by the headspace Executive from time to time

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.
- Expert knowledge of mental health issues faced by young people, indicated treatments for high prevalence disorders and the literature underpinning such approaches.
- Expert knowledge in the early identification and prevention of early psychosis.
- Demonstrated experience in clinical leadership and management of services.
- A proven track record in the provision of supervision, training and education to clinical staff.
- Comprehensive understanding of the mental health service system in Australia and the delivery of mental health services in a primary care setting.
Knowledge and understanding of current health/mental health policy issues in Australia including its impact on service system reform and the establishment of integrated and coordinated service delivery.
Demonstrated critical appraisal skills that can be applied to rigorous interpretation of clinical studies.
Proven stakeholder relationship management – ability to build relationships and strategic partnerships with headspace stakeholders including key government, non-government and community partners.
Highly developed interpersonal and communication skills, including the ability to communicate effectively with both clinical and non-clinical professionals.

6.2 Desirable

- Post graduate qualification in a relevant discipline, particularly child/adolescent mental health.
- Experience in the Not for Profit and/or public health sector.

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