

Project Officer – Alcohol & Other Drugs
Location: Dubbo, Bathurst or Orange
Fixed Term Contract: 3 months with possibility of extension

About Western Health Alliance Ltd (WHAL) trading as Western NSW Primary Health Network (WNSW PHN)

The WNSW PHN is one of 31 Primary Health Networks across Australia established by the Australian Government to support frontline health services. Our focus is to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of primary health care, ensuring people receive the right care in the right place at the right time. To achieve this, we work closely with general practice, other health care providers, Local Health Districts, hospitals and the broader community to align services with the health needs of the region.

The Role

This role is responsible for local coordination, development and delivery of WNSW PHN initiatives for the Opioid Mitigation Strategy (OMS). This program is being conducted in Dubbo, Broken Hill and other parts of Western NSW where the requisite mix of GP and alcohol and other drug (AOD) services can be established.

The aims of the program are:

- To address the emerging concern of prescription medication misuse in western NSW that can create a whole new cohort of AOD clients who require addiction management and AOD services.
- To improve the capacity and confidence of GPs to manage opioid clients, including non-opioid pain management alternatives, opioid withdrawal or reduction strategies and clients requiring prescription management following codeine up-scheduling.

The OMS will include three activities, focusing on diversion, reduction and withdrawal:

- i) Pain Management Clinics that will be trialled to provide non-pharmacotherapy alternatives to opioid prescription. This will reduce the prescription rate and remove the possibility for opioid dependence and potential addiction.
- ii) Codeine up-scheduling and opioid reduction strategies focussed on GPs better understanding their responsibilities and options for reducing opioid prescriptions or for applying pharmacotherapy alternatives to opioids, including codeine. This will include education, addiction medicine specialist support and an awareness campaign through general practice and AMS's.
- iii) GP led withdrawal, detoxification and rehabilitation developed to allow for ambulatory detoxification led by GPs with the support of addiction medicine specialists, nursing and counselling services. This will be linked to existing rehabilitation options (including residential and day programs). This will include a focus on Opioid and Methamphetamine withdrawal but will be available for all AOD addiction.

Benefits to working with WNSW PHN

We pride ourselves on being supportive and flexible and offer a great range of benefits including:

- Generous salary packaging options up to \$18,450 per year
- Professional development allowance and leave
- Flexible working arrangements
- Supportive team environment
- Collaboration with passionate likeminded professionals
- 5 weeks annual leave
- Additional leave between the Christmas and New Year period
- 6 weeks paid parental leave
- Opportunities to be innovative

How to apply

For an outline of responsibilities, position description, selection criteria and information on how to apply, please refer to the Employment tab in the 'About Us' section of our website www.wnswphn.org.au/about-us/employment

WNSW PHN is committed to achieving a diverse workforce and strongly encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

PLEASE NOTE:

The selection criteria as outlined in the position description must be addressed as part of your application.

Applications close 9am Monday 20th August 2018