

Aboriginal Mental Health Peer Worker

Location: Blacktown Hospital

Classification: Health Education Officer Non-Graduate

Employment Status: Temporary Part-Time (Up to 30/6/2025)

Enquiries: Shirley Tutudua on 0476 380 385 or Shirley.Tutudua@health.nsw.gov.au

Purpose of position:

Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD) Mental Health Services (MHS) are committed to building a professional Peer Workforce that supports Consumers living with mental illness and distress in their recovery journey. The Mental Health Peer Workforce in WSLHD is comprised of employees who have the lived or living experience of mental ill health and recovery, as well as additional life and work skills they bring to the role. The Peer Workforce is seen as vital in the support and guidance they positively offer to Consumers and MHS, through the significant gains made in their own recovery. This is achieved by being an effective support person and role model who can offer new insights and hope in the practical meaning of personal recovery. Peer Workers respects the Consumer's experiences, supporting their self-determination, identifying and working toward collaborative goals and needs and promotion within the community. A primary goal is to work collaboratively and positively with Consumers and staff to facilitate effective participation in individual treatment and recovery.

The Aboriginal Mental Health Peer Worker will be a member of the Peer Workforce and will work across the Community MHS as part of one or more multi-disciplinary Community Mental Health Teams (CMHT). The Aboriginal Mental Health Peer Worker will provide a non-clinical and cultural focus to support to Aboriginal Consumers who have contact with mental health services in WSLHD. Aboriginal peer workers must be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the local Aboriginal community and engage and involve Aboriginal community when drawing from lived experience of mental health issues. Aboriginal Mental Health Peer Workers are integral part of the service, and it is expected that Peer Workers will work as equal partners with clinicians in providing proactive community support for people with mental health issues.

Essential Criteria:

Evidence of Diversity claim: Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (pursuant to Section 14 (d) of the *Anti-discrimination Act NSW 1977*).

Selection Criteria:

1. Have your own lived or living experience of mental ill health and recovery including as a Consumer of mental health services and the ability to utilise your experience and recovery to constructively support Consumers with their own mental health recovery journey.
2. A demonstrated knowledge of the Aboriginal concept of social and emotional wellbeing including and understanding of Aboriginal family structure and Aboriginal culture and wisdom. This will include an understanding regarding the practical and emotional issues that may arise when working with Aboriginal individuals with mental health concerns and their families. Demonstrated understanding of the social, psychological and financial implications of hospitalisation for Aboriginal consumers.
3. Demonstrated clear written and verbal communication and negotiation skills including computer skills (MS Office).
4. Demonstrated ability to individually advocate and systemically advocate for mental health Consumers.
5. Ability to work independently and as part of a multi-disciplinary team and actively contribute to clinical care planning processes in a team setting.
6. Demonstrated ability to develop and maintain effective partnerships with a range of key stakeholders such as Consumers, Carers, GPs, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, in-patient units and CMHTs.
7. Have a current and valid NSW Drivers Licence (P2 acceptable) and be willing to use it to work across different locations in WSLHD.
8. Completed or willingness to undertake Certificate IV Peer Work Mental Health qualification.

Closing Date: 28 July 2024

Applications must be lodged electronically. Please go to [Career Portal](#) and search Job Reference Number [REQ491201](#)