Government of South Australia
SA Health

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Role Title:	Registered Nurse
Classification Code:	Registered Nurse Level 1 – RN
LHN/ HN/ SAAS/ DHA:	Northern Adelaide Local Health Network
Hospital/ Service/ Cluster	Older Persons Mental Health
Division:	Northern Mental Health
Department/ Section / Unit/ Ward:	OPMH Community
Role reports to:	Nurse Unit Manager (NUM) / Team Manger (Level 3 or 4)
Role Created/ Reviewed Date:	March 2025
Criminal and Relevant History Screening:	☒ Aged (NPC) ☒ Working With Children Check (WWCC) (DHS) ☐ Vulnerable (NPC) ☐ General Probity (NPC)
Immunisation Risk Category Requirements:	☒ Category A (direct contact with blood or body substances) ☐ Category B (indirect contact with blood or body substances) ☐ Category C (minimal patient contact)

ROLE CONTEXT

Primary Objective(s) of role:

Employees classified at this level provide nursing and/or midwifery services in health service settings. Employees working within this level develop from novice practitioners to a proficient level of professional practice. They consolidate knowledge and skills and develop in capability through continuous professional development and experience. An employee at this level accepts accountability for his or her own standards of nursing/midwifery care and for activities delegated to others.

Direct Reports:

- Nil

Key Relationships/ Interactions:

Internal

- Provides supervision of students, Assistants in Nursing and Enrolled Nurses.
- Maintains cooperative and productive working relationships within all members of the health care team.

External

- Maintains relationships with non-government organisations or other government organisations to meet the needs of the client group.

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Challenges associated with Role:

Major challenges currently associated with the role include:

- Providing evidenced based care, developing clinical skills while keeping up to date with professional standards of practice and quality management initiatives consistent with organisational policies.
- Working with children, youth, women and their families where there are multiple complexities and diverse cultural backgrounds.
- Recognising and responding to clinical deterioration or other incidents and escalating appropriately.
- Dealing with challenging behaviours.

Delegations:

- Nil

Resilience:

SA Health employees persevere to achieve goals, stay calm under pressure and are open to feedback.

Performance Development:

The incumbent will be required to participate in the organisation's Performance Review & Development Program which will include a regular review of the incumbent's performance against the responsibilities and key result areas associated with their position and a requirement to demonstrate appropriate behaviours which reflect a commitment to SA Health values and strategic directions.

General Requirements:

*NB References to legislation, policies and procedures includes any superseding versions

Managers and staff are required to work in accordance with the Code of Ethics for South Australian Public Sector, Policies and Procedures and legislative requirements including but not limited to:

- *Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)* maintaining your own health and safety and not place others at risk and comply with any reasonable instruction that is given to allow SA Health to comply with the WHS Act, and when relevant WHS Defined Officers must meet due diligence requirements.
- *Return to Work Act 2014* (SA), facilitating the recovery, maintenance or early return to work of employees with work related injury / illness.
- Equal Employment Opportunities (including prevention of bullying, harassment and intimidation).
- Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 (SA) 'Notification of Abuse or Neglect'.
- Disability Discrimination.
- *Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2012* (SA)
- *SA Information Privacy Principles*
- Relevant Awards, Enterprise Agreements, *Public Sector Act 2009* (SA), *Health Care Act* (SA) 2008, and the SA Health (Health Care Act) Human Resources Manual.
- Relevant Australian Standards.
- Duty to maintain confidentiality.
- Smoke Free Workplace.
- To value and respect the needs and contributions of SA Health Aboriginal staff and clients and commit to the development of Aboriginal cultural competence across all SA Health practice and service delivery.
- Applying the principles of the South Australian Government's Risk Management Policy to work as appropriate.
- *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (South Australia) Act 2010*
- *Mental Health Act 2009* (SA) and Regulations
- *Controlled Substances Act 1984* (SA) and Regulations
- The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia Registration Standards (including the Guidelines and Assessment Frameworks for Registration Standards)

- The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia Professional Practice Codes and Guidelines (including Competency Standards, Codes of Ethics and Professional Conduct, Decision Making Framework and Professional Boundaries)
- Professional Practice Standards and competencies consistent with area of practice as varied from time to time.
- Relevant policies, procedures and standards of SA Health and the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network.

Handling of Official Information:

By virtue of their duties, SA Health employees frequently access, otherwise deal with, and/or are aware of, information that needs to be treated as confidential.

SA Health employees will not access or attempt to access official information, including confidential patient information other than in connection with the performance by them of their duties and/or as authorised.

SA Health employees will not misuse information gained in their official capacity.

SA Health employees will maintain the integrity and security of official or confidential information for which they are responsible. Employees will also ensure that the privacy of individuals is maintained and will only release or disclose information in accordance with relevant legislation, industrial instruments, policy, or lawful and reasonable direction.

White Ribbon:

SA Health has a position of zero tolerance towards men's violence against women in the workplace and the broader community. In accordance with this, the incumbent must at all times act in a manner that is non-threatening, courteous, and respectful and will comply with any instructions, policies, procedures or guidelines issued by SA Health regarding acceptable workplace behaviour.

Cultural Commitment:

NALHN welcomes and respects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and values the expertise, cultural knowledge and life experiences they bring to the workplace. In acknowledgement of this, NALHN is committed to increasing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Workforce.

Special Conditions:

*NB Reference to legislation, policies and procedures includes any superseding versions

- Meet immunisation requirements as outlined by the Immunisation for Health Care Workers in South Australia Policy Directive.
- **Appointment is subject to immunisation risk category requirements (see page 1). There may be ongoing immunisation requirements that must be met.**
- It is mandatory that no person, whether or not already working in SA Health, may be appointed to a position in SA Health unless they have the satisfactory Criminal and Relevant History Screening, as required by the *SA Health Criminal and Relevant History Screening Policy Directive*.
- For *'Prescribed Positions'* under the *Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act (2016), the individual's WWCC* must be renewed every 5 years from the date of issue; and for "*Approved Aged Care Provider Positions*' every 3 years from the date of issue as required by the *Accountability Principles 2014* issued pursuant to the Aged care Act 1997 (Cth).
- For appointment in a *Prescribed Position* under the *Child Safety (Prohibited Persons Act (2016),* a current Working with Children Check (WWCC) is required from the Department for Human Services Screening Unit. For other positions, a satisfactory National Police Certificate (NPC) assessment is required.
- Depending on work requirements the incumbent may be transferred to other locations across SA Health to perform work appropriate to classification, skills and capabilities either on a permanent or temporary

basis subject to relevant provisions of the *Public Sector Act 2009* for Public Sector employees or the *SA Health (Health Care Act) Human Resources Manual* for Health Care Act employees.

- The incumbent may be required to participate in Counter Disaster activities including attendance, as required, at training programs and exercises to develop the necessary skills required to participate in responses in the event of a disaster and/or major incident.

Key Result Area and Responsibilities

Key Result Areas	Major Responsibilities
Direct/indirect patient/client care	> Assess individual patient/client needs, plan, implement and/or coordinate appropriate service delivery from a range of accepted options including other disciplines or agencies. > Provide direct person centred nursing care and/or individual case management to patients/clients on a shift by shift basis in a defined clinical area with increasing autonomy over time. > Plan and coordinate services with other disciplines or agencies in providing individual health care needs.
Support of health setting services	> Participate in quality improvement activities that contribute to patient/client safety, risk minimisation and safe work activities within the practice setting. > Provide ward/team leader/coordination as required on a shift by shift basis. (A team leader is a RN assigned responsibility for supporting staff and coordinating patient/client care). > Contribute to procedures for effectively dealing with people exhibiting challenging behaviours.
Education	> Provide health promotion and education, to patients/clients or groups and carers to improve the health outcomes of individual. > Support nursing/midwifery practice and learning experiences for students undertaking clinical placements, orientation for new staff and preceptorship of graduates.
Research	> Participate in evaluative research activities within the practice setting. > Use foundation theoretical knowledge and evidenced based guidelines to achieve positive patient/client care outcomes.
Professional leadership	> Provide, with increasing capacity over time, support and guidance to newer or less experienced staff, Enrolled Nurses, student nurses and other workers providing basic nursing care. > Review decisions, assessments and recommendations from less experienced Registered Nurses and Enrolled Nurses and students.

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Knowledge, Skills and Experience

ESSENTIAL MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Educational/Vocational Qualifications:

**Please amend as necessary for the relevant Educational/Vocational Qualification*

- Registered or eligible for registration as a Nurse with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia and who holds, or who is eligible to hold, a current practicing certificate.

Please include the below for Mental Health only

- Enrolled in an approved Mental Health course or holds a qualification in mental health practice.

Personal Abilities/Aptitudes/Skills: (related to the job description and expressed in a way which allows objective assessment):

- Effective communication skills including, problem solving, conflict resolution and negotiation skills.
- Ability to work effectively within a multidisciplinary team.
- Ability to prioritise workload.
- Ability to be, creative, innovative and flexible when approaching issues within a healthcare setting.
- Demonstrated commitment to providing consumer/client and family centred care.

Experience:

- Demonstrated competence in the relevant area of nursing practice in accordance with the appropriate standards of practice.

Knowledge:

- Knowledge and understanding of the role of the Registered General Nurse within a healthcare setting.
- Knowledge and understanding of relevant legislation, industrial agreements, standards, codes, ethics and competency standards.
- Knowledge of Quality Improvement Systems as applied to a healthcare setting.

DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS

Educational/Vocational Qualifications:

- Qualifications relevant to specialty / clinical area.

Personal Abilities/Aptitudes/Skills:

- Ability to use technology and computer skills.

Experience:

- Experience in quality improvement activities eg the development and/or implementation of clinical standards, practice guidelines, protocols/audits and quality indicators.

Knowledge

- Knowledge of contemporary professional nursing/midwifery issues.
- Knowledge of the South Australian Public Health System.

Organisational Context

SA Health

SA Health is committed to protecting and improving the health of all South Australians by providing leadership in health reform, public health services, health and medical research, policy development and planning, with an increased focus on wellbeing, illness prevention, early intervention and quality care.

SA Health is the brand name for the health portfolio of services and agencies responsible to the Minister for Health, the Minister for Health & Wellbeing. The State Government has reformed the governance of SA Health, including establishing 10 Local Health Networks (LHNs), each with its own Governing Board.

These reforms have taken a staged approach, with the most significant changes to taking place from 1 July 2019 when the new Governing Boards become fully operational.

SA Health is comprised of the Department for Health and Wellbeing and the following legal entities:

- Central Adelaide Local Health Network
- **Northern Adelaide Local Health Network**
- Southern Adelaide Local Health Network
- Women's and Children's Health Network
- Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network
- Eyre and Far North Local Health Network
- Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network
- Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network
- Limestone Coast Local Health Network
- Yorke and Northern Local Health Network
- SA Ambulance Service

Northern Adelaide Local Health Network

The Northern Adelaide Local Health Network (NALHN) provides care to more than 400,000 people living in the northern metropolitan area of Adelaide as well as providing a number of state-wide services, and services to those in regional areas. NALHN works to ensure quality and timely delivery of health care, whilst building a highly skilled, engaged and resilient workforce based on a culture of collaboration, respect, integrity and accountability.

NALHN offers a range of primary health care services across the northern metropolitan area of Adelaide, with a focus on providing preventive and health promoting programs in the community, and transition and hospital substitution and avoidance programs targeted at chronic disease and frail aged.

Clinical leadership of care systems is central to the current national and state wide health reforms. NALHN care delivery is configured within clinical divisions that are patient–focused, clinically led groupings of services. Clinical Divisions are responsible for managing service delivery activities across NALHN campuses and units, bringing together empowered experts to directly make relevant decisions.

NALHN includes:

- Lyell McEwin Hospital (LMH) - a 336-bed specialist referral public teaching hospital which has links to the University of Adelaide, University of South Australia and Flinders University. LMH provides a full range of high-quality medical, surgical, diagnostic, emergency and support services.
- Modbury Hospital is a 174-bed, acute care teaching hospital that provides inpatient, outpatient, emergency services, Aged Care, Rehabilitation and Palliative Care. GP Plus Health Care Centres and Super Clinics
- Aboriginal Health Services
- Mental Health Services (including two statewide services – Forensics and Older Persons)
- Sub-acute Services

The total operating budget for 23/24 for NALHN is $1.02 bn with a workforce of 4,710 FTE / 6,325 head count.

NALHN Governing Board

The Governing Board members bring to NALHN a wealth of knowledge and experience across many areas.

NALHN is confident that with the support of our highly qualified Governing Board, NALHN will be well placed to achieve better health service decisions tailored to local needs and deliver a safe, high quality and financially sustainable LHN into the future.

Values

SA Health Values

The values of SA Health are used to indicate the type of conduct required by our employees and the conduct that our customers can expect from our health service:

- We are committed to the values of integrity, respect and accountability.
- We value care, excellence, innovation, creativity, leadership and equity in health care provision and health outcomes.
- We demonstrate our values in our interactions with others in SA Health, the community, and those for whom we care.

Code of Ethics

The *Code of Ethics for the South Australian Public Sector* provides an ethical framework for the public sector and applies to all public service employees:

- Democratic Values - Helping the government, under the law to serve the people of South Australia.
- Service, Respect and Courtesy - Serving the people of South Australia.
- Honesty and Integrity - Acting at all times in such a way as to uphold the public trust.
- Accountability - Holding ourselves accountable for everything we do.
- Professional Conduct Standards - Exhibiting the highest standards of professional conduct.

As a public sector employee, you have a responsibility to maintain ethical behaviour and professional integrity standards. It is expected that you act in accordance with the Code of Ethics, and contribute to a culture of integrity within SA Health.

The Code recognises that some public sector employees are also bound by codes of conduct relevant to their profession.

Approvals

Role Description Approval

I acknowledge that the role I currently occupy has the delegated authority to authorise this document.

Name: **Role Title:**

Signature: **Date:**

Role Acceptance

Incumbent Acceptance

I have read and understand the responsibilities associated with role, the role and organisational context and the values of SA Health as described within this document.

Name: **Signature:**

Date: