



ROLE DESCRIPTION

Role Title:	Mental Health Nurse		
Classification Code:	RN1	Position Number	
LHN / HN / SAAS / DHA:	Central Adelaide Local Health Network (LHN)		
Division:	Mental Health Clinical Program (MHCP)		
Department / Section / Unit / Ward:			
Role Reports To:	Nurse Unit Manager / Team Manager		
Role Created / Reviewed Date:	23 March 2018		
Criminal History Clearance Requirements:	<input type="checkbox"/> Aged (NPC) <input type="checkbox"/> Child- Prescribed (DCSI) <input type="checkbox"/> Vulnerable (NPC) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Probity (NPC)		
Immunisation Risk Category:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Category A (direct contact with blood or body substances) <input type="checkbox"/> Category B (indirect contact with blood or body substances) <input type="checkbox"/> Category C (<i>minimal patient contact</i>)		

ROLE CONTEXT

Primary Objective(s) of Role:
<p>Nurses classified at this level provide nursing services in health service settings. Nurses working at 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. At this level the nurse accepts accountability for their own standards of nursing care and for activities delegated to others. Within the framework of the National Mental Health Policy and National Standards and in a manner consistent with the stated vision and values of SA Health, the Nurse under the guidance of, or with access to a Level 2 / 3 Mental Health Nurse, uses the process of nursing to deliver direct and comprehensive nursing care and individual case management to consumers within a designated practice setting. The provision of education, counselling and group work is considered essential components of care which are directed towards the attainment of optimum consumer health and recovery. This involves consultation and liaison with other professional disciplines and non-governmental organisations.</p>

Direct Reports:

Professionally

- Accountable to the Nursing Co-Director, MHCP through the nursing structure.

Functionally

- Accountable to the Nursing Co-Director through the Nurse Unit Manager or Team Manager.

Key Relationships / Interactions:

Internal

- Personally accountable and responsible for safe, effective, nursing practice.
- Responsible for practice within own level of skills and contemporary knowledge base relevant to professional background.
- Responsible for providing support and guidance to newer and less experienced staff, Enrolled Nurses, student nurses and other workers providing basic nursing care.
- Engaging in professional development and maintenance of own clinical competence.
- Consulting and collaborating with other health care professionals both within the health service and the community to ensure optimal consumer outcomes.

External

- Developing and maintaining cooperative and productive working relationships with all members of the health care team and non-governmental organisations.

Challenges Associated with Role:

Challenges currently associated with the role include:

- Undertake quality assessments of consumers and develop, as part of a multi-disciplinary team, treatment plans to ensure regular flow of consumers through the service.
- Provide skilled mental health nursing care to consumers using recovery based principles to address mental health, physical health and social needs using a strengths approach.
- Work collaboratively with other mental health units/teams, other agencies and wide health service.

Delegations:

Refer to [HR Delegations](#) and [Finance Delegations](#)

Delegated Level in accordance with CALHN's Delegation of Authority Document.

Staff supervised: Direct Indirect

Special Conditions:

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

- The incumbent will be required to work a 24-7 roster.
- The incumbent may be required to drive a government plate vehicle.
- The incumbent may be required to relieve in another area of the MHCP based on staffing and demands.
- May be required to directly supervise Enrolled Nurses, Graduate Nurses and newer Mental Health Nurses.
- May be required to undertake higher duties.
- May be required to fulfil the role of shift coordinator.
- It is mandatory that no person, whether or not currently working in SA Health, will be eligible for appointment to a position in SA Health unless they have obtained a satisfactory Background Screening and National Criminal History Clearance.
- *Prescribed Positions* under the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* must obtain a satisfactory Working with Children Check through the Department of Human Services (DHS) Screening Unit.
- Criminal and Relevant History Screening must be renewed every 3 years thereafter from date of issue for 'Prescribed Positions' under *the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* or 'Approved Aged Care Provider Positions' as defined under the *Accountability Principles 2014* pursuant to the *Aged Care Act 2007 (Cth)*.
- Appointment is subject to immunisation risk category requirements. There may be ongoing immunisation requirements that must be met.
- 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.

General Requirements:

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

- *Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA) 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.*
- *Meet immunisation requirements as outlined by the Immunisation Guidelines for Health Care Workers in South Australia Policy Directive.*
- *Equal Employment Opportunities (including prevention of bullying, harassment and intimidation).*
- *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 – ‘Notification of Abuse or Neglect’.*
- *Disability Discrimination.*
- *Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2012 (SA).*
- *Information Privacy Principles Instruction.*
- *Code of Fair Information Practice.*
- *Relevant Awards, Enterprise Agreements, Public Sector Act 2009, Health Care Act 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.*
- *SA Health / CALHN / MHCP OWIs and SSIs.*

The SA Health workforce contributes to the safety and quality of patient care by adhering to the South Australian Charter of Health Care Rights, understanding the intent of the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards and participating in quality improvement activities as necessary.

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.

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:

CALHN 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, CALHN is committed to increasing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Workforce.

Resilience:

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

Key Result Area and Responsibilities

Key Result Areas	Major Responsibilities
Provide direct / indirect consumer care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess individual consumer needs, plan, implement and / or coordinate appropriate service delivery from a range of accepted options including other disciplines or agencies. • Provide direct recovery based nursing care and / or individual case management to consumers 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 service systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in quality improvement activities that contribute to consumer safety, risk minimisation and safe work activities within the practice setting. • Provide unit / team leadership as required on a shift by shift basis (a team leader is a RN assigned responsibility for supporting staff and coordinating consumer care). • Contribute to practices to prevent and effectively deal with consumers exhibiting challenging behaviours.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide health promotion and education to consumers, groups and carers to improve the health outcomes of individuals. • Complete mandatory in-service programs. • Engaging in regular clinical supervision. • Support nursing practice and learning experiences for students undertaking clinical placements, orientation for new staff and preceptorship of graduates.
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in evaluative research activities within the practice setting. • Use foundation theoretical knowledge and evidenced based guidelines to achieve positive consumer care outcomes.
Professional Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide, with increasing capacity over time, support and guidance to less experienced staff, Enrolled Nurses, student nurses, graduate nurses and other workers providing care. • Review decisions, assessments and recommendations from less experienced Registered Nurses, Enrolled Nurses, students and graduates.
Commitment to consumer and carer participation by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging, promoting and supporting active participation of consumers and carers in service delivery at the individual treatment planning level and wider health service governance.
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Knowledge, Skills and Experience

ESSENTIAL MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Educational / Vocational Qualifications

- Registered as a Nurse with the Nursing & Midwifery Board of Australia and holds a current practising certificate.
- Hold a qualification in mental health nursing equivalent to a Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing.

Personal Abilities / Aptitudes / Skills

- Competency in clinical skills appropriate to the area.
- Demonstrated commitment to consumer and carer participation.
- Ability to use initiative and work under limited supervision.
- Ability to work collaboratively with consumers, carers, other agencies and community services.
- Ability to work in a team.
- Effective communication (verbal & written), organisation and time management skills.
- Ability to analyse, reflect and be objective.
- Demonstrated ability to plan, implement and evaluate mental health nursing care.

Experience

- Demonstrated competence in mental health nursing practice in accordance with the appropriate standards of practice.
- Experience in basic computing skills.
- Demonstrated experience and skills in the areas of assessment, planning care, evaluation of care, provision of therapeutic interventions and understanding of group processes and counselling.

Knowledge

- Knowledge and understanding of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC) National Competencies for the Registered and Enrolled Nurse and Midwives in Recommended Domains.
- Knowledge and understanding of the ANMC Code of Professional Conduct for Nurses in Australia and the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment Code of Ethics for the South Australian Public Sector.
- Knowledge and understanding of legislative responsibilities for Work Health and Safety, Workers Compensation and Rehabilitation and Equal Opportunity.
- Knowledge of contemporary mental health nursing and health care issues.
- Knowledge of community support services and referral processes.
- Knowledge of National Mental Health Strategy / Policy / Plan.
- Knowledge of National Quality Standards.
- Knowledge of the recovery framework.
- Knowledge of the emergency demand management principles.
- Familiarity with aspects of medication management including knowledge of relevant medications, indications, common dosages, side-effects, special precautions, drugs of abuse.
- Knowledge and understanding of relevant legislation, principles and codes of practice.
- Knowledge of equal opportunities, cultural diversity and Work, Health and Safety policies in the Government.

DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS

Educational / Vocational Qualifications

- Post Graduate studies relevant to area of practice.

Personal Abilities / Aptitudes / Skills

- Self-motivated and applies initiative to professional development requirement.
- Ability to prioritise workloads and manage own time effectively and efficiently.
- Demonstrate a willingness to consolidate and develop further skills.

Experience

- Experience a broad range of mental health clinical settings.
- Experience in supervisory roles in clinical settings.

Knowledge

- Knowledge of wider health industry.
- Beginning knowledge of research methodology and aspect of community orientated care.
- Knowledge of working effectively with community based organisations.

Organisational Context

Organisational Overview

Our mission at SA Health is to lead and deliver a comprehensive and sustainable health system that aims to ensure healthier, longer and better lives for all South Australians. We will achieve our objectives by strengthening primary health care, enhancing hospital care, reforming mental health care and improving the health of Aboriginal people.

SA Health is committed to a health system that produces positive health outcomes by focusing on health promotion, illness prevention and early intervention. We will work with other government agencies and the community to address the environmental, socioeconomic, biological and behavioural determinants of health, and to achieve equitable health outcomes for all South Australians

Our Legal Entities

SA Health is the brand name for the health portfolio of services and agencies responsible to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. The Department for Health and Wellbeing is an administrative unit under the Public Sector Act 2009.

The legal entities include but are not limited to Central Adelaide Local Health Network Inc., Northern Adelaide Local Health Network Inc., Southern Adelaide Local Health Network Inc., Women's and Children's Health Network Inc., Country Health SA Local Health Network Inc. and SA Ambulance Service Inc.

SA Health Challenges

The health system is facing the challenges of an ageing population, increased incidence of chronic disease, workforce shortages, and ageing infrastructure. The SA Health Care Plan has been developed to meet these challenges and ensure South Australian's have access to the best available health care in hospitals, health care centres and through GPs and other providers.

Central Adelaide Local Health Network

CALHN is one of ten Local Health Networks (LHNs) in South Australia. CALHN is responsible for the following health services:

- Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH).
- The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (TQEH).
- Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre (HRC).
- St Margaret's Rehabilitation Hospital (SMRH).
- Glenside Health Services (GHS) Acute Care beds and Inpatient Rehabilitation Services beds only.
- Adelaide Dental Hospital (ADH).

CALHN also has governance over numerous community mental health and primary health services including Prison Health Service, SA Dental Service and DonateLife SA. Of note also is governance of the Statewide Clinical Support Services (SCSS) including Imaging, Pathology and Pharmacy, responsibility of which has vacillated between CALHN and DHW over the past few years.

CALHN is one of three metropolitan LHNs and its core population is approximately 390,000 people. CALHN also provides services to patients from other SA networks, rural and remote areas, the Northern Territory, NSW (Broken Hill) and western parts of Victoria. These services usually relate to complex services such as head and neck cancer, radiation therapy, cardiac surgery, spinal surgery or rehabilitation.

CALHN's purpose is to deliver quality and sustainable healthcare. While the delivery of high quality patient care is our number one priority, we face a significant challenge in achieving financial

sustainability. A quality-assured financial recovery plan has been developed to meet these challenges. Through effective leadership and change management, the plan which is applicable to all Directorates (now Clinical Programs) and departments, will be implemented over the next three years.

Mental Health Clinical Program

The CALHN Mental Health Clinical Program (MHCP) provides comprehensive inpatient and community based mental health care to people living within the CALHN catchment area. Services are located in the two general hospitals, at Glenside Health Services and at a range of community sites. Services are available for people from 16 years.

The MHCP partners with multiple government and non-government services in the coordination of treatment and support services. The service is multidisciplinary and employs a range of medical, nursing, allied health, administration and lived experience workers. The service is committed to the genuine engagement of consumers and carers as partners in service delivery.

Values

Central Adelaide Local Health Network Values

Our shared values confirm our common mission by promoting an organisational climate where the patient's needs are put first and where the teamwork and professionalism of our workforce help us to attract and retain the best staff. These values guide our decisions and actions.

Patient Centred:	Our patients are the reason we are here and we will provide the best service to our patients and customers
Team Work:	We value each other and work as a team to provide the best care for our patients
Respect:	We respect each other, our patients and their families by recognising different backgrounds and choices, and acknowledging that they have the right to our services
Professionalism:	We recognise that staff come from varied professional and work backgrounds and that our desire to care for patients unites our professional approach to practice

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.

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:** _____

Version control and change history

Version	Date from	Date to	Amendment
V1	10/02/17	09/04/17	Original version.
V2	10/04/17	04/07/17	Safety & Quality statement in General Requirements.
V3	04/07/17	10/07/2018	Minor formatting with order of information amended.
V4	11/07/2018	06/01/2019	Updated legal entities for Minister and Department title on Page 7. Updated Immunisation Guidelines to Policy Directive under general requirements.
V5	07/01/2019		Statement regarding Financial recovery plan added to Organisational context for CALHN White Ribbon statement included Cultural Commitment statement included Child protection legislation " <i>Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017</i> " updated under Special Conditions Link to HR Delegations and Financial Delegations included under Delegations Statement regarding South Australian Charter of Health Care Rights included under General Requirements Minor formatting with order of information amended.
V6	06/3/2019		Immunisation Risk Category checkbox has been included Statement regarding immunisation requirements has been included under Special conditions – " <i>Appointment is subject to immunisation risk category requirements. There may be ongoing immunisation requirements that must be met.</i> "
V7	03/12/2019		Amendment to legislation references. Removal of Mental Health Directorate references. Inclusion of Mental Health Clinical Program references.
V8	06/04/2023		Advice from HR re; General Probity Section required.