

Position Description

Position:	Registered Nurse with Mental Health Experience
Supervisor:	Health Practice Manager.
Location:	Based at ASRC Footscary
Time Commitment & Availability:	a minimum commitment of 6-12 months, one day a week. Shifts are available on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 am to 4:30 pm

Position Purpose

The Registered Nurse/Mental Health Nurse works as a volunteer member of the ASRC team providing psychiatric care, support, and case management to refugees and people seeking asylum. The role involves mental health triage, assessments, provision of direct support, therapeutic intervention, coordination and follow-up of care, and referral to internal and external mental health and psychiatric services according to need.

About the Program: Health

The ASRC Health Program is a nurse-led service of seven nurses and one bicultural worker. The voluntary workforce consists of over 50 healthcare volunteers including GPs, nurses and a mental health team, which currently includes mental health nurses, psychiatrists, counsellors, art therapists, and trauma informed yoga instructors. The allied health care team provides physiotherapy, osteopathy, acupuncture, dietetics and podiatry. The health program offers refugee health assessments, triage and care coordination. We provide catch-up immunisations, pathology collection, diabetes management and health promotion to people seeking asylum as well as financial support for prescription medication. Clients require multidisciplinary care coordination to address their complex health care needs. The majority of the people accessing our service have no income and are on visas denying them work rights and Medicare and often have no and low income making pharmaceuticals and allied health referrals unobtainable.

Organisational context

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) is Australia's largest independent organization providing aid, employment, health services and advocacy for people seeking asylum. Powered by over 500 volunteers and 200 staff, we create welcoming and inclusive environments. Our organisational values are **Welcoming, Authentic, Courageous** and **Collaborative**.

Key Responsibilities

- Ensure the delivery of evidence-based mental health services through an agreed scope of practice within an integrated health service environment.
- Undertake comprehensive mental health assessments; including mental state examinations, psychosocial history, functional assessment, mental health symptoms, risk assessment, and treatment history and objectives.
- Develop and monitor mental health treatment/care plans that address the particular psychiatric and psychosocial needs of individual members. This may be undertaken with the support and in collaboration with the health care team, individual members and family, psychiatrists, and other internal and external professional caregivers
- Assist in the management of medication in collaboration with treating clinicians.
- Assist in the preparation of mental health reports if required.
- Provide case management and person-centered care through a comprehensive medical and psychosocial approach to mental health, with cultural and language sensitivity.
- Liaise with external mental health service providers.
- Support and educate the health care team in mental health treatment and support pathways.

What We're Looking For:

Essential:

- Must hold at least a tertiary degree (or equivalent qualification) in nursing, with postgraduate studies or experience in psychiatric/mental health nursing.
- Current registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)
- Minimum of 2 years post-registration experience in mental health.
- Ability to work autonomously exercising sound professional judgment and seeking advice and consultation with the wider health team where appropriate.
- Cross-cultural competencies including working with interpreters.
- Competent in using a range of information and communications technology and familiar with health practice software.
- Excellent time management and organisational skills.
- Well-developed interpersonal communication and problem-solving skills within a broad range of clinical, community, and organisational interactions.
- Commitment to the rights of people seeking asylum and ASRC values (Collaboration, Welcome, Courage, Authenticity)
- Good communication and teamwork skills
- Reliability and willingness to commit to agreed volunteer hours

Desirable:

- Prior experience in a similar role
- Lived experience as a person seeking asylum, or from a refugee background
- Knowledge of the policy context of practice with asylum seekers visa categories/conditions, and the barriers faced by people seeking asylum in Australia

The ASRC values lived experience, passion and commitment to justice and human rights for people seeking asylum over formal qualifications. You are encouraged to apply even if you do not meet every criterion.

Compliance:

Before commencing with ASRC you will be required to complete the following:

- Police Check
- Working with Children Check
- Volunteer Agreement
- Volunteer Training
- 3-Month Review Period