
JOB AND PERSON DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Respite Worker
Classification: SACS Award Level 3 (Casual \$22.50 - \$24.00 per hour)
Position Hours: minimum 3 hours per session

ORGANISATION

The Mental Illness Fellowship of South Australia (MIFSA) is a community based, not for profit organisation, which provides a range of education, support, rehabilitation and information services and programs for people with mental illness, their carers and the community. MIFSA programs are delivered utilising the “lived experience” of people with mental illness and carers, and according to a psychosocial rehabilitation model and recovery philosophy and practice. MIFSA’s objectives include promoting greater community knowledge, awareness, support and understanding of the effects of mental illness on individuals and their carers. These objectives are pursued through research, illness management, support, reducing stigma and advancing the rights of people with a mental illness and their carers. MIFSA is part of a national body with branches across states and territories in Australia. For more information about MIFSA services and programs go to www.mifsa.org

OUR VISION, MISSION and VALUES

Our vision is that every person with mental illness is able to make a valued contribution to society, without stigma or discrimination, due to an increased understanding and awareness of mental illness in the community and the availability of appropriate services as required.

Our mission is to provide education, support, rehabilitation and recovery-based programs in a safe, quality environment to assist people with mental illness and their natural support network living in South Australia to enjoy the best possible quality of life.

Our values: Commitment, Respect, Quality and Acceptance.

POSITION SUMMARY

Under the general direction and direct supervision of a Respite Program Team Leader, the Respite Worker will provide community-based respite to support carers and individuals experiencing mental illness. The Program is based in two regions: north-west and south-east metropolitan Adelaide, providing services in both regions.

The Respite Worker will be required to build and maintain respectful and compassionate relationships with carers and care recipients in order to assist them to determine and access appropriate supports. This will include offering opportunities and encouragement in identifying needs and meeting individual goals towards recovery. The Respite Worker will offer individual support in accordance with rehabilitation and recovery principles to facilitate the caring journey for carers and the recovery journey for participants.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

The Respite Worker position is offered at a minimum of 3 hours per session. The MIFSA Respite Program is funded by the Australian Government under the Mental Health Respite Program to 30th June 2010.

The Respite Worker position may require flexible work hours. Flexible work hours are subject to the needs of the Program, as negotiated with the Team Leader. All appointments are subject to satisfactory offender history check. The Respite Worker will be required to use their own vehicle and will be compensated for mileage under the terms and rate stated in the Award. The duties of the position may vary over time but will remain consistent with the role of Respite Worker. The position is subject to ongoing funding from the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

DUTIES

1. As part of the Respite Program, the Respite Worker will offer and provide community-based emotional, practical and social support to families where mental illness has impacted on family functioning to facilitate the recovery journey for Program participants.
2. Build and maintain respectful and compassionate relationships with carers and care recipients in order to assist them to determine and access appropriate supports.
3. Offer information and support at times of stress or trauma in order to maintain relationships with Program participants.
4. Resource relevant community services and means of accessing them to assist in the development of social networks and ongoing supports for Program participants.
5. Liase and advocate with other agencies on behalf of Program participants to assist effective negotiations where appropriate.
6. Maintain up to date mental health knowledge and participate in regular supervision and annual performance appraisals to ensure ongoing professional development and the delivery of quality services.
7. Work as part of a team to maintain appropriate records and reporting related to the administration of the Respite Program and in accordance with Funding and Service Agreement requirements.
8. Contribute to a high standard of service provided by MIFSA by participating in relevant meetings, delivering programs consistent with MIFSA's strategic plan, policies and procedures and participating in continuous quality improvement activities.

SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

1. Sound knowledge of mental illnesses including impact on individuals, their carers and the community. Experience may include "lived experience", work experience and/or qualifications
2. Ability to successfully interact with people living with mental illness and their carers
3. Ability to work autonomously and be flexible and adaptable in a dynamic setting within a team environment
4. Demonstrated ability to resource and access relevant community and health services
5. Sound self-management, communication, organisational and interpersonal skills
6. Working knowledge of Microsoft Computer Programs, email and internet
7. Current SA Drivers License and willingness to use own vehicle
8. Current Senior First Aid Certificate and Child-Safe Environments (Mandatory Notification) accreditation (or willingness to undertake)
9. Understanding of organisational operations and workplace practices, eg: Equal Opportunity and OHS&W