



Position Description

Position Title: Trauma Informed Peer Support Worker/s

Reports to: CEO

Position Type: Full time or job share

Classification: SCHADS Award 2010 Community Development Worker L4

VMIAC Overview:

VMIAC is the peak Victorian non-government organisation for people with lived experience of mental health or emotional issues. VMIAC engages in a number of activities, including information provision, peer support and self-help. VMIAC provides individual, group and systemic advocacy along with research and evaluation, education and training.

OUR VISION

A world where all mental health consumers stand proud, live a life with choices honoured, rights upheld, and these principles embedded in all aspects of society.

VMIAC aims to achieve this by:

1. Honouring mental health consumer diversity
2. Providing advocacy for mental health consumers
3. Advancing mental health consumer workforce and leadership
4. Delivering information and training to the community
5. Enabling mental health consumer driven education and research
6. Developing strategic partnerships.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

VMIAC'S work is premised on the following beliefs:

- ✦ People's experiences are respected and valued
- ✦ People are experts in their own lives
- ✦ People have a right to self determination
- ✦ People have capacity to make genuine choices, free from coercion
- ✦ People should be safe, respected, valued and informed
- ✦ People's diversity is embraced

Working Relationships:



Internal	External
CEO	Consumers and Consumer Groups
The Advocacy team	Victorian Centres Against Sexual Assault
	IMHA
	Department of Health and Human Services
	Mental Health Services – Clinical and Community
	Identified networks

Principle Objective:

Aim of service: Provision of trauma-informed peer support to consumers

Phoenix is a ten-month pilot project funded by the DHSS and led by VMIAC. There is 5 months left in the project. The project will invite consumers who have experienced sexual safety issues including sexual violence and harassment within mental health inpatient services to access trauma informed peer support provided by experienced trauma peer support workers.

Project Activity:

Engage consumers representing a wide demographic and invite participation to the pilot project. Provide Trauma Informed Peer Support along with referral and linkage to advocacy and specialist community providers. Contribute to a model of practice providing Trauma Informed Peer Support. Support evaluation and review of service to inform sustainability.

Specific Responsibilities:

- Provision of Trauma Informed Peer Support [TIPS]
- Support project implementation
- Contribute to project evaluation



Specialist Peer Support

- Providing direct trauma informed peer support [TIPS] with specific focus on the impact of having experienced sexual safety issues in mental health hospitals
- Link consumers to supportive in-house advocacy services where identified and requested
- Provide TIPS consistent with best practice principles and ethics in evolving Peer support practice
- Provide a non-judgemental, non- retraumatising, safe, consumer-directed service
- Support self-determination & self-advocacy
- Remain current in knowledge of Trauma Informed Peer Support, Intentional Peer Support and attending legislative frameworks, policies and guidelines.

Administration

- Contribute to the program's model of practice
- Reports as requested in key stages of program activity
- Maintain confidentiality in data collection process, storage and reporting; upholding Privacy and data maintenance legislation
- Commitment to the collaborative ethic of 'nothing about us without us'.
- Uphold all relevant legislations

Teamwork and Communication

- Contribute as a supportive team member, sharing knowledge, skills and experience for the collective benefit
- Participate in individual and co-peer supervision specifically in recognition to vicarious trauma
- Provide peer support to colleagues where appropriate and safe to do so
- Actively contribute to Workplace Health and Safety by identifying hazards and taking reasonable care for personal health and safety and that of others in the workplace;
- Raise suggestions and concerns as they arise to ensure a safe work environment for employees, consumers and visitors.



Essential

Skills, Competencies and Behaviours:

1. Demonstrated understanding and solid experience in Trauma Informed Peer Support
2. Significant experience of consumer Peer work
3. A lived experience, self-awareness and personal attributes consistent with trauma sensitive practice and awareness of boundaries
4. Active listening skills, reflective practice
5. Strong interpersonal and communication skills with experience in engaging, communicating and working inclusively and collaboratively with a diverse range of people
6. Experience and understanding of issues relating to service delivery within an organisation working from consumer perspectives, social justice and culturally inclusive practices
7. Intermediate skills in Microsoft Office with experience in client database
8. Communication skills with experience writing letters, reports and submissions.
9. Social work, counselling or psychology. Qualification in mental health peer work; Cert IV in Mental Health and Intentional Peer Support are highly regarded
10. Hold a current Driver's Licence and able to travel for work purposes.
11. Police and Working with Children Check are essential.

Personal attributes: Grounded. Sense of humour. Emotional intelligence. Patient. Empathic.

Equipment:

- Use of company vehicle for business purposes