

**Schizophrenia Fellowship of NSW
Recovery Support Services**

Position Description

**Recovery Support Worker
Day to Day Living Program (D2DL)**

Position Reports to:

Team Leader, D2DL Campbelltown

Hours of work:

Full time 76 hours per fortnight

Tenure:

12 Month contract

Location:

Campbelltown

Salary:

SACS NAPSA Grade 3, Year based on experience enhanced by Salary Packaging

Position Objective:

To work with the a team of D2DL Activity Support workers to ensure that the D2DL Program achieves its aims and operates in accordance with D2DL Program Guidelines, as well as the relevant policies and procedures of the Fellowship including OH & S, Code of Conduct, and Confidentiality and Privacy.

Responsibilities:

- To develop a good working understanding of the D2DL program, its purpose and desired outcomes.
- To make contact and engage with people in the D2DL target group and assess their suitability and level of need for the D2DL program
- To develop an ongoing relationship with participants in the program which best supports their recovery journey and empowers them as partners in this program
- To work with participants to develop (or preferably utilizing existing) their own Individual Recovery Plan (IRP)
- To engage with participants and involve them in activities that will develop confidence and the skills needed to achieve the goals identified in their IRP
- To maintain contact with participants and support them to re-engage with the program when their motivation or participation lapses
- To assist participants to identify and commence the next step in their recovery journey after their participation in the D2DL program
- To maintain a sense of healthy teamwork with all co-workers
- Develop and maintain positive working relationships and linkages with other staff providing services within the Fellowship as well as with all relevant external stakeholders.

- Evaluate and continuously improve your own professional performance, knowledge and skills.
- Adherence and compliance to the Continuous Quality Improvement policies and principles of the Fellowship.

Background:

The Schizophrenia Fellowship of NSW (the Fellowship) is a NSW mental health charity which has been delivering innovative consumer and carer services for over 25 years. The Fellowship has a range of services across NSW (see www.sfnsw.org.au) and also has a strong advocacy role in trying to bring about better services for people with mental illness and their families. The Fellowship has funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health under the Support for Day to Day Living in the Community Program (D2DL) for five sites in NSW – Parramatta, Campbelltown, Bowral, Ryde, Ulladulla and Wagga Wagga. The Programs are managed by a D2DL Manager, based at the State office in Gladesville.

‘The D2DL program aims to assist people who have a severe and persistent mental illness which limits their ability to function in the community; who experience social isolation in the community due to lack of social supports; and people whose level of disability restricts their capacity to obtain employment in the open labour market for the foreseeable future.

The D2DL program also aims to develop day-to-day living skills by learning new skills or relearning old ones; strengthening social networks; increasing participation in community, social, recreational and educational activities; improving self confidence; achieving personal goals; and abilities to participate in everyday living activities; improving participant’s quality of life; and support individuals to live at an optimal level of independence in the community.

The D2DL program consists of social, recreational and educational activities which may be a mix of formal activities and informal centre-based activities. Such activities may occur inside and/or outside of the organisation’s premises.’

Essential Criteria:

- Must have experience working with people who have mental illness
- Good people skills and proven ability to work in a team
- Good skills in planning and organising individual and group activities
- Good ability to facilitate group successful activities
- Appreciation and commitment to a recovery based approach to mental health

Desirable Criteria:

- Experience in working with volunteers
- Knowledge of the NSW mental health system
- Knowledge of community based mental health services
- Computer skills and administration skills
- Current driving licence

Personal Qualities required:

- Compassion, patience and ability to empathise

- Genuine commitment to helping people with a severe functional limitation as a result of a mental illness in their recovery. A capacity to relate to consumers with dignity and respect as a unique person rather than as a 'person with a mental illness'
- Ability to think and act calmly and ability to deal sensitively with distress and unpredictable behaviour
- Knowledge of mental illness and skills in working with people experiencing mental illness
- Ability to promote the rights, responsibilities, and recovery of program participants
- Effective non-judgmental listening and communication skills
- Ability to understand and promote mental health issues and consumer rights and responsibilities
- Promote ethical behaviour and anti-discriminatory practice that treats consumers, family and staff with dignity and respect, and balances the right to privacy and confidentiality with duty of care
- Ability to work safely and be aware of local community resources

Job Description Post Script: Circumstances continually change and a readiness to be able to flexibly adapt to new requirements and roles in a collegial spirit is a permanent necessity.