

**Schizophrenia Fellowship of NSW Inc.  
Position Description**

**Senior Recovery Support Worker  
Support for Day to Day Living in the Community Program  
(D2DL) CANBERRA**

**This Position Reporting to:**

Assistant State Manager Recovery Services through to General Manager Recovery Services

**Hours of work:**

38 hours of work

**Tenure:**

Until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Location:**

Canberra – central city

**Salary:**

SACS Award (Community Services Award) Grade 3, Year based on experience – enhanced by Salary Packaging

**Position Aim:** Ensure that the CCD2DL Program achieves its aims and operates in accordance with D2DL Program Guidelines, as well as the relevant policies and procedures of the SFNSW including OH & S, Codes of Conduct, and Confidentiality and Privacy

**The goals of the position are:**

- 1) To develop a good working understanding of the D2DL program, its purpose and desired outcomes.
- 2) To make contact and engage with people in the D2DL target group and assess their suitability and level of need for the D2DL program
- 3) To develop an ongoing relationship with participants in the program which best supports their recovery journey and empowers them as partners in this program
- 4) To work with participants to develop (or preferably utilizing existing) their own Individual Recovery Plan (IRP)
- 5) 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
- 6) To maintain contact with participants and support them to re-engage with the program when their motivation or participation lapses
- 7) To assist participants to identify and commence the next step in their recovery journey after their participation in the D2DL program
- 8) To maintain a sense of healthy teamwork with all co-workers
- 9) Develop and maintain positive working relationships and linkages with other staff providing services within the SFNSW as well as with all relevant external stakeholders.
- 10) Evaluate and continuously improve your own professional performance, knowledge and skills.
- 11) Adherence and compliance to the Continuous Quality Improvement policies and principles of the SFNSW.

**Background:**

The Schizophrenia Fellowship is a NSW mental health charity which has been delivering innovative consumer and carer services for over 20 years. It has a range of services across NSW and ACT (see [www.sfnsw.org.au](http://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 received funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health under the Support for Day to Day Living in the Community Program (D2DL) for five sites – Canberra, Parramatta, Campbelltown and Bowral, Ryde, Ulladulla and Wagga Wagga. The Programs will be supervised by a 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; experience social isolation in the community due to lack of social supports; and have a level of disability which restricts their capacity to obtain employment in the open labour market for the foreseeable future.*

*The D2DL program aims to development of day-to-day living skills by learning new skills or relearning old ones; strengthening social networks; increase participation in community, social, recreational and educational activities; improvement in self confidence; achievement of personal goals; and ability to participate in everyday living activities; improve a 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:**

- Previous experience working with people who have mental illness
- Appreciation and commitment to a recovery based approach to mental health
- Sound computer and administration skills
- Current driving licence
- Demonstrated experience with developing individual and group activities

**Desirable Criteria:**

- Relevant qualifications
- Experience in Project Management would be highly regarded
- Experience working with volunteers
- Knowledge of the ACT mental health system
- Knowledge of community based mental health services

**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 them with dignity and respect, and 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
- 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

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

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2010

Review date: 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2011