

Recovery Support Services

Position Description

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

This Position Reports to:

D2DL Team Leader and through them to the State Manager, Recovery Services and through them to the General Manager of Recovery Services - SFNSW

Hours of work:

Casual position- hours negotiated with the Team Leader on the basis of service demands

Location:

Wagga Wagga

Salary:

SACS Award (Community Services Award) Grade 3, Year based on experience - hourly casual rate

Position Aim: To work with 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 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 the confidence and 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 (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 received 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 and Bowral, Ryde, Ulladulla and Wagga Wagga and Canberra in the ACT.

‘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:

- Experience working with people who have mental illness
- Good people skills
- Demonstrated skills in planning and organizing individual and group activities
- Demonstrated ability to facilitate successful group activities
- Appreciation of 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 the ability to empathise with others
- Genuine commitment to helping people with a severe functional limitation as a result of a mental illness towards their recovery
- Capacity to relate to people with a severe functional limitation as a result of mental illness 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 sensitively when dealing with distress and unpredictable behaviours
- 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
- Ability to work safely and know the local community resources

Job Description Post Script: Circumstances continually change and a readiness to be able to apply flexibility in adapting to new requirements and roles in a collegial spirit is a permanent necessity of this position.

Date: 1st March, 2010

Review: 31st May, 2011