

# POSITION DESCRIPTION



**Position Title:** Menatl health Peer Worker (Suicide prevention)  
**Work Level:** Operational  
**Reports To:** Team Leader peer Workers (Hunter)  
**Direct Reports:** This position does not have any employees reporting into it

## Position Overview

This position requires significant lived experience of diverse genders and sexualities, and recovery from mental health or suicidal crisis. This enables the provision of peer support and mentoring to people in our communities, who present to our service in a current suicidal crisis or following a recent suicide attempt. You will be required to use your experience openly, appropriately and effectively to build professional connections with the people you support. You will be providing support to people living throughout NSW face-to-face and via telehealth.

ACON can offer Peer Workers the opportunity of external peer supervision, professional development, staff meetings, networking with other peer workers within ACON and across the LGBTQ+ and mental health sectors, and other activities that promote skill-building and positive engagement as part of a team.

This role may involve some travel across regional NSW to build referral pathways and promote the service.

Please be aware that this role will involve working with people who:

- Are part of the LGBTQ+ population, evidence demonstrates that many clients will be trans (binary and non-binary), bi+, queer and/or experience additional intersectionality's such as being gay and Aboriginal, a Sistergirl or Brotherboy, from a regional community, or from a multicultural or multi-faith background.
- Are experiencing current suicidal thoughts or have recently made a suicide attempt
- May be distressed
- May have experienced trauma e.g., child abuse, history of violence
- May be unpredictable or aggressive
- May at times be under the influence of drugs or alcohol

## Main Activities

In this role, you will:

- ✓ Provide peer support, mentoring and advocacy to your peer clients
- ✓ Listen to and create opportunities and activities that meet the interests and goals of your peer clients
- ✓ Support peer clients to strengthen their self-management skills through self-directed and shared learning experiences
- ✓ Ensure that individual support is provided to help peer clients meet their recovery journey goals, using a strengths-based and client-led approach
- ✓ Work collaboratively with Care Coordinator/Counsellors and broader clinical and non-clinical and health promotion teams within ACON
- ✓ Support Care Coordinator/Counsellors to meet the logistic and social needs of peer clients such as attending appointments, completing paperwork, and home visits (where appropriate)
- ✓ Support the promotion of the service and the development of a state-wide mental health website including blogs, resources, workshops and service provider information.
- ✓ Champion the development and sustained implementation of diversity and inclusion initiatives within the workplace, actively promoting a culture that respects, celebrates and cultivates differences among staff and volunteers.

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- ✓ Actively participate in, and contribute to building an effective and positive team culture, continuing professional development, information exchange and quality improvement activities; and an ongoing process of supervision, unit meetings, team meetings, and general staff meetings.
- ✓ Perform other duties to assist with the work of the unit as requested by your supervisor (or designate).

## Selection Criteria

### Essential:

1. Significant lived experience of diverse genders and sexualities, and recovery from mental health or suicidal crisis
2. At least 1-year experience working or volunteering in the community in a mental health setting
3. Ability to reflect intentionally and thoughtfully upon one's personal lived experience of mental ill-health, and an understanding of which elements are individual or structural, and which may be common to many people of diverse sexuality and gender
4. A strong commitment to, and good understanding of, trauma-informed recovery-based practice
5. Work independently and collaboratively as part of a team, reporting back regularly so progress can be supported
6. Well-developed verbal and written communication skills and demonstrated experience using Microsoft Office

### Desirable:

1. Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work/equivalent qualification
2. An understanding of the Australian LGBTQ+ mental health evidence-base
3. Experience working collaboratively with allied health professionals
4. Knowledge of mental health services and other community services in NSW
5. Prior experience in a peer work role
6. Recommended vaccinations against illness that may adversely impact ACON's communities.

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