

Position Description

Perinatal Mental Health Practitioner (SCHADS Level 6)
Caroline Chisholm Society

Incumbent	Vacant
Position Title:	Perinatal Mental Health Practitioner
Program Area:	Family Services
Classification:	Social and Community Services (SCHADS) Level 6
EFT:	Full Time
Contract end date:	Maximum Term – 30 April 2023
Position Reports to:	Pregnancy and Early Parenting Manager

About The Caroline Chisholm Society:

The Caroline Chisholm Society (the Society) has been providing services to vulnerable children, women and families for over 50 years. The Society specialises in providing a range of supports and assistance to pregnant women and parents with young children aged up to 5 years.

The organisation has a clear focus on supporting women with their pregnancy and families with their early parenting, to create safe and nurturing environments for infants and young children. We work with the whole family to support secure attachments, optimise child outcomes through parenting interventions, prevent and alleviate the impacts of poverty, homelessness, family violence and issues mental health have on parent and child wellbeing.

The Society's values are respect for life, compassion and caring, social justice, empowerment, recognition of diversity, and accountable best practice. Our services are characterised as having a child focus and being family centred, being flexible and responsive, acknowledging the expertise and diversity of families, providing positive pregnancy support, connecting families with communities and supporting the importance of the early years.

More information about the Society is available at <http://www.caroline.org.au/>, in our constitution and in our annual reports.

The Role:

The family is the principal provider of care and nurture for children. The Society's practices and programs are family centred, with professionals working in partnership with families to articulate and facilitate the achievement of families' goals and objectives.

The Perinatal Mental Health Practitioner (PMHP), in collaboration with the Program Manager's will provide counselling, information, support, risk management and case work to mothers presenting with mental health complexities.

The Perinatal Mental Health Practitioner will also provide advice and support to women and their children, experiencing mental health challenges before, during and after pregnancy, with a focus on the First 1000 Days of a baby's life. Responsibilities will include working with mothers to manage the psychosocial conditions they experience during and after birth.

The PMHP role works across all teams in conjunction with the Integrated Family Services team as part of a multi-disciplinary approach to deliver mental health interventions, including supporting client's mental health plans as well as offering non-directive counselling for women seeking pregnancy support. The role involves providing psychological counselling and support using evidence-based, short-term psychological intervention. This includes undertaking mental health assessments, some case management, providing psychoeducation or single sessions to women to assist in supporting the mother in her environment.

The Perinatal Mental Health Practitioner will provide secondary consultation throughout the Brimbank Melton and Western Melbourne ChildFIRST alliance. This will be structured consultation to support professionals in working with clients experiencing Perinatal Mental Health complexities. The role will include elements of place-based work with Universal Services within the Wyndham region.

Key Responsibilities:

The Perinatal Mental Health Practitioner reports to the Pregnancy and Early Parenting Manager and is responsible for;

1. Undertake evidence-based assessment of client needs, develop and review case plans.
2. Assess, monitor, and manage clinical risk.
3. Deliver targeted place-based interventions once per week with Universal Services in the Wyndham region.
4. Provide evidence-based psychological interventions to women seeking counselling support, in line with prevention and early intervention principles.
5. Deliver individual, group and in some circumstances, family support following evidence-based practice principles.
6. Deliver case management/case coordination to women with complex and moderate risks.
7. Develop and maintain appropriate networks and resources to enable referrals of women to broader community services.
8. Liaise with GPs and other mental health professionals for the purpose of completion and review of mental health plans and shared care planning.
9. Work collaboratively with the CCS team of practitioners, community and network organisations and clients.
10. Provide secondary consultation throughout the Brimbank Melton and Western Melbourne ChildFIRST alliance.
11. Include family/friends/networks in support and assessment where required.
12. Independently deliver support services to families including assessment, counselling, group work, single session & short-term casework, in-home case management and case work, referral and advocacy, with a strong focus and skill base in increasing parenting capacity and family functioning, using evidence-informed programs.

Key Selection Criteria:

The successful candidate will have responded to each of the following criteria;

1. Understand and share the values and objectives of the Caroline Chisholm Society.
2. Tertiary qualifications in Psychology, Mental Health Social Work and eligibility to provide services under Medicare.
3. Minimum of two years' experience in a Mental Health position with experience in perinatal mental health work.
4. Experience working in both community and home-based settings
5. Experience in providing evidence-based interventions and assessments.
6. Can manage quality improvement functions, including solid understanding of good process and accountability.
7. Have good written communications skills including ability to review and develop written policies and procedures.
8. Have good oral communications skills, and to be confident to liaise both internally and externally with staff and stakeholders.
9. Are able to manage adjunct services including seeking and acquitting funding, allocating work, implementing policy and fulfilling compliance requirements.
10. Exercise judgement soundly and decisively, especially when dealing with crisis situations.
11. The successful candidate may also have Medicare registration or at least be eligible for registration.

Appointment is subject to holding a current drivers licence, and successful conclusion of a police record and working with children checks.

Location:

Mt Alexander Road, Essendon; Darebin Place, Caroline Springs; one day of place-based work with Universal Services within the Wyndham region; Working from Home options.

Child Safe Organisation:

Caroline Chisholm Society is a child safe organisation and is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children at all times. Appointment is subject to holding a current driver's licence, and successful conclusion of a police records and working with children check.