



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

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| <b>Position Title</b>  | Mental Health Social Worker 51010          |
| <b>Classification:</b> | Professional Officer                       |
| <b>Accountable to:</b> | Senior Manager – Social Health or delegate |

### BASIC POSITION PURPOSE

The purpose of the position is to promote recovery, restore individual, family, and community wellbeing, to enhance development of each individual's power and control over their lives, and to advance principles of social justice.

The Mental Health Social Worker will work as part of a responsive and dedicated multi-disciplinary team to provide mental health focused social work services and programs to Aboriginal people residing in the Shoalhaven Aboriginal communities. This will include promoting the service and working in partnership with relevant stakeholders in providing culturally appropriate social work services and programs that improves community safety, mental health and wellbeing.

The position will be required to work closely with a broad range of SCMSAC services including GP's, registered nurses, health Workers, psychologists and caseworkers to provide specialised short term consultation and assessment, crisis interventions, referral, and advocacy services as necessary for individuals, families and groups. The position holder will be required to provide direct client service delivery to families and individuals and support the planning and facilitation of a range of programs to improve the lives of local Aboriginal people and communities.

### SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Provide short term intensive casework, advocacy, social support, practical help and counseling to Aboriginal people experiencing a Mental illness, substance addiction and disability.
2. Undertake social work assessment with the client to develop a shared understanding of their situation and related problems and strengths.
3. Work collaboratively with individuals, including their families and carers to assess needs, assist in goal setting and develop strategies to achieve those goals and help people to develop the skills towards recovery and independence.
4. Develop and implement case plans and intervention strategies for clients and their families including coordinating care and improving access to programs and services.
5. Develop successful working relationships with service users and their families in the Shoalhaven region.
6. Support individuals and their families to build new networks and access support services in their community.
7. Build and maintain strong links with public, private, non-government and volunteer services in the local area.

## WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

Working under the direction of the Senior Manager Social Health Services, and reporting directly to the line manager, the Mental Health Social Worker will be required to relate to:

- Co-workers and peers within SCMSAC and other relevant Government and Non-Government agencies/services. Including but not limited to; the health, medical, welfare and legal sectors.
- Ensure the development of therapeutic relationships with clients of the service is maintained professionally.
- Communicate and work closely with local Aboriginal communities to identify needs and ensure that appropriate culturally sensitive programs and services are driven by community needs.

## PERSON SPECIFICATIONS

The position holder will be required to demonstrate:

- Commitment to working within SCMSAC vision and values.
- Willingness to successfully coordinate the delivery of Social Health services and programs.
- Ability to communicate effectively and timely and a high level of interpersonal skills.
- Knowledge of Social Emotional Wellbeing and recovery principles and their application in relation to individuals, families, and communities.
- High level of Integrity and regard for professional boundaries, confidentiality and the ability to maintain sensitive information.
- High level of organisational ability, time and task management skills.
- Strong community focus with compassion for the client group and ability to maintain unconditional positive regard for the clients.
- Willingness to undertake training and ongoing professional development.
- Leadership and capacity for innovation, quality assurance and improvement

## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Effective use of information technology systems.
- Maintain timely and accurate reporting obligations.
- Completion of activity evaluations, reports, statistics, and attendance records.
- Service clients are handled in a professional and courteous manner.
- Clients have access to appropriate support services
- Participation in planning and strategic directions of the organisation.
- Extent to which work processes and procedures are documented.
- Community relationships are established and or developed and well maintained.
- Participation in the planning process for health programs and services.
- Effective delivery of Social Health programs and services
- Effective and efficient use of resources.
- Completed duties as detailed in person specification and position description.
- Completion of Employee Development Agreement and Review.

## KEY COMPETENCIES

### Essential Qualifications, knowledge and skills:

#### SELECTION CRITERIA:

1. Current Social Worker registration or tertiary qualifications in Social Work from an accredited course providing eligibility for membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers.
2. Excellent knowledge and understanding of the health and wellbeing issues affecting Aboriginal/ Torres Strait Islander communities and have demonstrated experience working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families and communities.
3. Ability to provide bio-psychosocial assessments, case plans and social work interventions.
4. Demonstrated experience in the delivery of social work or mental health related case management or counselling services including relevant tertiary qualifications.
5. Ability to develop, implement and evaluate health related programs, training and community development strategies.
6. Excellent interpersonal, written and oral communication skills including the ability to manage time effectively and efficiently using personal and technical skills, including establishing priorities and meeting deadlines.
7. Computer proficiency and the ability to use basic computer programs and client information and data management systems, including the capacity to write reports, collect statistical data and conduct research.
8. Knowledge and commitment to policy, practice and legislation of child protection including Workplace Health & Safety, Equal Employment Opportunity and how they apply in the workplace.
9. Current NSW Driver's License and willingness to travel overnight in regional and interstate areas if required.

## EMPLOYEE'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF POSITION DESCRIPTION

I have read and confirm my understanding of the above position description that will apply to my employment with South Coast Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation.

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**Employee signature**

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**Date**

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**Signed and approved on behalf of SCMSAC**

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**Date**