

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

# Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

April 2021

This Position Description is a guide and will vary from time to time and between services and/or units to meet changing service needs

The Canterbury District Health Board is committed to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and the overarching objectives of the New Zealand health and disability strategies.

### **Organisational Vision**

The CDHB's vision is to improve the health and well being of the people living in Canterbury.

### **Organisational Values**

- Care & respect for others
- Integrity in all we do
- Responsibility for outcomes

### **POSITION TITLE:**

Clinical Psychologist

### **REPORTS TO (Title):**

Clinical Manager, Older Persons Mental Health Community Team, Older Persons Health & Rehabilitation  
Professionally accountable to Clinical Manager, Psychology, OPH&R

### **REPORTS ON A DAILY BASIS TO:**

Clinical Manager Older Persons Mental Health

### **PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES**

To utilise professional knowledge and skills that contribute significantly to the clinical assessment, management and treatment of Older Persons with Mental Health Problems, including cognitive impairments.

To assist with the evaluation, management and treatment of distress and disability associated with Mental Health Problems, including cognitive impairments.

To contribute to the ongoing review and development of the Older Persons Mental Health Service activities and ensure best practise outcomes for patients. To provide treatment for patients in wards AG (functional ward), BG (dementia ward) and Burwood Day Clinic and Community as required.

### **FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS:**

(Who are the customer/consumers/patients)

#### **INTERNALLY:**

- Interdisciplinary Teams across the OPMH Service: Wards AG & BG, Burwood Day Clinic and Community Team
- Medical referrers
- Clinical psychology colleagues in OPH&R
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#### **EXTERNALLY:**

As required with patients/clients and their families, Mental Health Services, General Practitioners and Specialists, relevant professional organisations and community support groups.

**KEY PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:**

Task	<p><b>The Clinical Psychologist is responsible for the psychological assessment of individuals with psychological and psychiatric conditions, including cognitive impairments along with the development of management plans to ensure the delivery of appropriate health care to clients referred to the Older Persons Mental Health service.</b></p>
Expected Result	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evaluation and assessment will be completed for both outpatients and in-patients with psychological and psychiatric conditions who are referred to this service.</li> <li>2. The development and implementation of clinical management plans for patients with psychological and psychiatric conditions.</li> <li>3. Provide identification of significant psychosocial and psychological stressors, including cognitive impairments. This may include the administration of psychometric assessments and the presentation of these findings.</li> <li>4. Timely completion of appropriate reports and findings based on evaluations.</li> <li>5. Provide significant participation in the Inter disciplinary Older Persons Mental Health service; contribute to the patient's assessment and treatment needs and the review of the program.</li> <li>6. Provision of individual counselling and therapy to assist with the development of individual coping strategies for managing Psychological and Psychiatric Conditions and advice to families and caregivers.</li> <li>7. Ensure liaison with Mental Health Services, referrers, and other clinical staff on the ongoing management of patients.</li> <li>8. Activity / workload statistics to be maintained in accordance with Canterbury District Health Board's clinical case-mix requirements.</li> </ol>
Task	<p><b>The Clinical Psychologist is responsible for maintaining ongoing and effective communication with members of the interdisciplinary teams of the Older Persons Mental Health service .</b></p>
Expected Result	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To work in an effective interdisciplinary team approach.</li> <li>2. The communication of information in a timely, relevant and effective manner.</li> <li>3. Identification and engagement with psychosocial, psychological and cognitive functioning concerns, in cooperation with other team members.</li> <li>4. Availability for staff debriefing and support as required.</li> </ol>

Task	<b>The Clinical Psychologist will contribute to the ongoing education of interdisciplinary team members regarding assessments and, treatments that are developed from evidence based practice, in a clinical psychology framework.</b>
Expected Result	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At service level presenting individual case studies, specific topics related to the assessment and treatment of psychological and psychological disorders as well as service development issues at department education sessions.</li> <li>2. Presenting outside of the service to other departments and service areas on the management of psychological and psychiatric conditions.</li> <li>3. Contingent upon their own levels of skill and experience, providing supervision for psychology students and Interns who may be in their 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, or 6<sup>th</sup> year of clinical training.</li> <li>4. Provide ongoing informal education of team members regarding psychological issues in the management of patients with psychological and psychiatric conditions.</li> </ol>
Task	<b>The Clinical Psychologist will contribute to the ongoing review and activities of the service and contribute to the development of this service.</b>
Expected Result	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure collection, storage and analysis of information that pertains to the service's activities.</li> <li>2. Implement audit processes to review the activities of the service.</li> <li>3. Contribute to reports and presentations of review or research findings at regular intervals.</li> </ol>
Task	<b>The Clinical Psychologist is responsible for maintaining ongoing and effective communication with the Clinical Director, Clinical Manager and Allied Health Professional Leader Clinical Psychology, Older Persons Health &amp; Rehabilitation.</b>
Expected Result	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Clinical Director, Service Manager and Clinical Manager Older Persons Mental Health Community Team are kept informed of any issues relating to service delivery in the clinical area.</li> </ol>
Task	<b>The Clinical Psychologist will ensure that the Canterbury District Health Board's Occupational Safety &amp; Health requirements are met.</b>
Expected Result	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work in a safe and healthy manner to prevent harm to themselves or others.</li> <li>2. Be pro-active in identifying and controlling hazards through staff meetings.</li> <li>3. H&amp;S risks and incidents are reported directly to the Clinical Manager</li> </ol>
Task	<b>The Clinical Psychologist will undertake other duties as reasonably requested by the Clinical Manager Older Persons Mental Health Community Team, Clinical Director and/or Service Manager from time to time. A consultation process may be required to ensure that requests are appropriate.</b>

Expected Result

1. To ensure that all duties required to be performed in the best interests of Canterbury District Health Board are done so in a competent and effective manner.

**HEALTH & SAFETY:**

- Observe all Canterbury DHB safe work procedures and instructions
- Ensure your own safety and that of others
- Report any hazards or potential hazard immediately
- Use all protective equipment and wear protective clothing provided
- Make unsafe work situations safe or, if they cannot, inform your supervisor or manager
- Co-operate with the monitoring of workplace hazards and employee's health
- Ensure that all accidents or incidents are promptly reported to your manager
- Report early any pain or discomfort
- Take an active role in the Canterbury DHB's rehabilitation plan, to ensure an early and durable return to work
- Seek advice from your manager if you are unsure of any work practice

**QUALITY:**

Every staff member within CDHB is responsible for ensuring a quality service is provided in their area of expertise. All staff are to be involved in quality activities and should identify areas of improvement. All staff are to be familiar with and apply the appropriate organisational and divisional policies and procedures.

**QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE:**

**The Clinical Psychologist must:**

- Hold a practicing certificate from the New Zealand Clinical Psychologists Board registering them to practice under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.
- Have a minimum of a Master's degree in psychology with a Diploma of Clinical Psychology, or equivalent qualification.
- Has had experience with, or is prepared to, learn the use of psychometric instruments, used in the evaluation of cognitive impairment and psychological and psychiatric conditions and be confident in the analysis of data systems the instruments require
- Possess time management and organisation skills and an ability to prioritise work and work under pressure.
- Possess excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Work comfortably within the interdisciplinary team approach.
- Demonstrate a commitment to ongoing professional development.

**The Clinical Psychologist should ideally:**

Have experience in health psychology, preferably in the evaluation and management of psychological and psychiatric conditions in the elderly population.

Have experience in a rehabilitation setting, working with psychologically and/or physically and/or cognitively impaired people.

Have had experience in a consultation – liaison psychiatry setting.

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Be skilled in relevant psychological therapies such as cognitive/behavioural therapy, and group work.

Have counselling skills and experience.

**PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES:****Key Behaviours:**

- Ability to “work together” in a truthful and helpful manner.
- Ability to “work smarter” by being innovative and proactive.
- Accepts responsibility for actions.

The intent of this position description is to provide a representative summary of the major duties and responsibilities performed by staff in this job classification. Staff members may be requested to perform job related tasks other than those specified.