

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

# Senior Social Worker

	
<b>Organisation</b>	NSW Health
<b>Local Health District / Agency</b>	Northern Sydney Local Health District
<b>Position Classification</b>	Social Worker Lvl 3
<b>State Award</b>	NSW Health Service Health Professionals (State) Award
<b>Category</b>	Allied Health   Social Worker
<b>Vaccination Category</b>	Category A
<b>ANZSCO Code</b>	272511 Social Worker
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.nslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/">www.nslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/</a>

## PRIMARY PURPOSE

### MHDA Declaration

Each person's unique journey of recovery will be supported by mental health drug and alcohol services in a way that fosters hope, purpose and resilience.

### **MHDA Statement of Intention**

The intention of the NSLHD MHDA is to provide recovery-oriented, trauma informed services that are guided by evidence based practices and collaboration.

Social Workers are members of multidisciplinary teams. They play a vital role in the assessment, treatment and discharge planning of all patients in the detoxification Unit, IDAT Program and D&A Teams. They prepare reports and give evidence when patients are reviewed under the IDAT Program.

They offer education and counselling to relatives and carers. They provide education to hospital staff about social work related issues. The social worker collaborates with a range of professional organisations, within the LHD and external to the LHD, to ensure patient centred care.

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## ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

### Workforce Health and Safety (WH&S)

The Social Worker must take all reasonable care for the self and others; complying with any reasonable instruction, applicable NSLHD policies and procedures relating to wellbeing and WH&S. WH&S policies and procedures and mandatory training are inclusive of but not limited to manual handling, infection control, waste management, hand hygiene and violence prevention. The Social Worker will be familiar with safety and emergency procedures including fire, bomb threat, internal and external disasters, personal threat and medical emergency. The Social worker will report unsafe working conditions or potential workplace hazards to the WH&S representative for correction. The Social Worker will contribute to processes for accreditation, including National Standards and WH&S reviews.

## KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

The SW will prioritise their workload to provide high quality, direct care to consumers. This includes the provision of senior practitioner level psychosocial assessment, counselling, information and advocacy to consumers, carers and families in a consumer centred framework. They will utilise professional judgment to ensure patient care is within

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professional, organisational, legal and ethical boundaries, and reflects evidence based best practice knowledge and assessment, and work up referrals to the Involuntary Treatment Program under the D&A and Alcohol Treatment Act 2007. Role requires participation in a weekend and SW on-call service as required and after hours on call roster in the SW disaster response at primary and other NSLHD sites.

Teamwork: Establish and maintain partnerships with the multidisciplinary team to make shared decisions that meet the needs of consumers, carers and families, communicate goals, treatment plans and actively participation in team meetings, case conferences, clinical handover and education. They will participate in the process of regular supervision, performance appraisal and performance management as determined by the NUM and participate and assist with the development of research, surveys, studies and evaluation.

The SW will plan, implement, evaluate and report on services, identifying opportunities for improvement in clinical practice and develop and lead ongoing quality improvement activities with the other staff. They will actively participate and/or lead departmental meetings, undergo an annual performance review and conduct reviews on junior staff.

The worker will be responsible for maintaining advanced practice skills in their area of speciality and their own professional development in order to meet registration requirements or eligibility for membership of their professional association. They must be capable of providing clinical supervision and support to students, Level 1/2 health professionals, technical and support staff. They may also conduct clinical research and participate in the provision of clinical in-service education programs to staff and students and engage in Quality Improvement, Education and clinical practice development activities.

Information Management- The worker will maintain adequate client records, including relevant databases and statistics. They will document all aspects of patient care in compliance with NSW Health and NSLHD documentation standards and procedures including maintaining security and confidentiality of information. They will be required to undertake administrative duties for example, filing, preparing materials and computer tasks.

## KEY CHALLENGES

- Manages time and prioritises according to competing demands to meet competing needs and expectations of a senior role.
- Works in an area that requires ongoing high levels of clinical expertise and knowledge.
- Exercises independent professional judgement when required in solving problems and managing cases where principles, procedures, techniques and methods require expansion, adaption or modification.

## KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Who	Why
Direct supervisor and Manager	To discuss and report on day to day tasks and issues.
Staff within the health service	Communicates with the purpose to provide updates, support and high quality care.
Consumers, Carers and Families	Partnership in care.
External health services and agencies	For communication, best care practice purposes and share information.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Consistently demonstrates behaviours that reinforce the CORE Values of our organisation; Collaboration, Openness, Respect and Empowerment. Demonstrates these behaviours with all stakeholders; colleagues, direct reports, as well as our patients and consumers, and those that care for them.
2. A Bachelor or post graduate degree in Social Work and eligibility for the Australian Association of Social

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- Workers (AASW). Evidence of extensive clinical experience, inclusive of experience as a Level 2 Social Work or equivalent.
3. Provide evidence of proficient written, verbal and interpersonal communication skills with the proven ability to liaise with novice and experienced health professionals and external service providers. Demonstrated computer literacy and ability to use health information systems.
  4. Demonstrated ability to initiate, lead, complete and share quality improvement activities or service evaluation process. Experience in clinical teaching and supervision of students, level 1/2 Allied Health Professionals and/or Allied Health Assistants.
  5. Well-developed understanding as to the impact and management of trauma, disability, children at risk of harm, domestic violence and bereavement
  6. Demonstrated competencies in providing social work services in an acute hospital and community settings and in complex discharge planning activities
  7. Demonstrated proficient skills and knowledge in the provision of current social work practice. A strong commitment to an evidence-based service to provide for consumers, carers and families requiring assessment, case management, intervention, appropriate referral and discharge planning.
  8. Demonstrated proficiency in ability to work autonomously with limited supervision. Have the ability to prioritise work, manage a demanding workload, apply high level reasoning skills and have independent professional judgement.