

Position Description: Manager, Policy and Advocacy

Title: Manager, Policy and Advocacy

Date Prepared: June 2021

Reports to: Deputy CEO

Direct reports: 3

Status: Full time, permanent

Grade: MHV Level 7 \$98,306 – \$102,416 plus 10% super plus generous salary sacrificing arrangements

Position summary

The past twelve months have seen an immense shift in the state and national mental health landscape. The handing down of the final report from the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System in February 2021 along with the release of other significant national inquiries, strategies and frameworks, places Victoria on the brink of the largest mental health reform since deinstitutionalization in the 1990's.

Mental Health Victoria's Manager, Policy and Advocacy will have a unique opportunity to shape the mental health policy agenda in Victoria and play a critical role in helping Mental Health Victoria to achieve its goals to:

- Lead the sector on a journey of system reform
- Be strategic, confident and prominent in public debate
- Be recognised as the principal voice for Victoria's mental health sector
- Influence decision makers in the effective and sustainable implementation of mental health initiatives
- Collaborate with key stakeholders to address the premature mortality, morbidity and diminished quality of life of people living with a mental illness
- Promote mental health, social and emotional wellbeing

Background

Mental Health Victoria (MHV) is the peak body for mental health. We work with carers, consumers, clinical and support services, medical colleges, professional associations, unions, police, emergency services, universities, governments and many others involved in mental health.

MHV is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. Our Patron is Professor Allan Fels AO and our Ambassador is Professor Patrick McGorry AO. Our income is derived from a combination of Victorian Government and Federal grants, philanthropy, corporate sponsorships, conferences, and income from the provision of training and professional development services.

MHV's aim is to ensure that all Victorians living with mental illness can access the treatment and support they need to lead fulfilling lives in the community. Towards this end, we commission research and develop policy aimed at improving the mental health system as a whole and its many constituent parts. We bring together mental health system stakeholders through state and national events including conferences, summits and forums, and we auspice the Victorian Mental Health Policy Network.

MHV played a key role in the advocacy leading up to the commencement of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System. As the Royal Commission has now handed down their final report, MHV will be crucial in ensuring that key stakeholders are engaged in the reform process as it unfurls over the next decade. MHV's policy and communications strategy and subsequent work will be integral to this process.

Our Purpose: Is to ensure that people living with a mental illness can access effective and appropriate treatment and community support to enable them to participate fully in society.

Our Belief: Is that Victorians should have equitable access to world-class mental health services.

Our Mission: Is to drive system reform to ensure that people receive the mental health care they need.

Position accountabilities

- Develop and lead MHV's strategic policy program in consultation with the MHV executive leadership team to deliver on MHV's organisational objectives
- Lead and manage MHV's Policy and advocacy team, including setting work programs and priorities, ensuring work streams are integrated to deliver outputs, and leading and developing staff
- Establish and oversee MHV's sector engagement work including oversight of the Victorian Mental Health Policy Network and the Service Reform Advisory Network
- Establish and build strategic relationships with key state and national stakeholders
- Lead and contribute to MHV's policy responses including the preparation of discussion papers, publications, briefs and submissions

- Provide input into MHV's communications to ensure they promote MHV's policy positions and strengthen MHV's role as a prominent voice for the mental health sector
- Oversee the planning and design of events such as stakeholder consultations, symposia, forums, and conferences to encourage dialogue and ultimately better policies, programs, and practices in mental health
- Undertake research and analysis in relation to key policy deliverables
- Respond to media inquiries as required
- Represent Mental Health Victoria on local, state and national committees
- Build and maintain the profile of MHV as the leader in mental health policy in Victoria
- Manage the P&L requirements and monitor the Policy and Advocacy team budget
- Role model MHV's values and champion our purpose
- Build organisational capability in policy development
- Other duties as required

Key selection criteria

- Tertiary or post graduate qualification in a relevant field
- Extensive policy and advocacy experience, preferably in public health, mental health or a related field
- Excellent understanding of machinery of government, including the ability to work with and influence senior leaders across government
- Decision making: Highly developed research and analytical skills for identifying key issues relevant to Mental Health Victoria's policy work; ability to analyse and develop policy, produce high quality submissions, reports and position papers
- Communication: High-level verbal and written communication skills with the ability to communicate effectively to a range of diverse audiences including the media
- Strategic leadership, including political and business acumen, and financial management experience



- Stakeholder management: Effective stakeholder and relationship management skills
- Excellent people management skills and experience – including the ability to lead and manage teams and projects effectively