

Parkinson's Victoria

Position Description

Job Title	Movement Disorder Support Worker- Psychologist
Department	Health Team
Reports to	Manager Operations and Development
Organisational Context	<p>Parkinson's Victoria is a statewide specialist information and support service providing information, education and support to people living with Parkinson's, their families, carers, health providers and the wider community.</p> <p>We are a not for profit organisation, funded in part by the state government, but also relying on membership subscriptions, donations and bequests to provide and develop services.</p> <p>We fund and partner with research organisations to increase knowledge, improve outcomes for People Living With Parkinson's (PLWP), and to support better self- management.</p>
Our Mission	<p>To provide access for people living with Parkinson's to comprehensive, relevant, and flexible services, encouraging independence and improved quality of life.</p> <p>To facilitate and fund research projects which seek to improve both quality of life outcomes for people living with Parkinson's and the search for a cure.</p>
Our Values	<p>Sensitive We understand the needs and challenges of people living with Parkinson's and their families and ensure services and supports are sympathetic and responsive to their needs.</p> <p>Responsive We provide timely, accessible and flexible service and supports to people living with Parkinson's, their families and carers and service providers.</p> <p>Innovative We seek to improve outcomes for people living with Parkinson's and their families. To do this we seek to promote a learning culture within our own organisation, the community and health sector to ensure that advancements in research are reflected in new and original services methods and responses.</p> <p>Excellence We provide quality services and supports in an environment that is committed to continuous improvement and establishing industry standards for people living with Parkinson's and their families and carers.</p>

<p>Departmental Context</p>	<p>The Health information service is a specialised multi-disciplined service which operates web and tele-health information services. It is a vital aspect of Parkinson’s Victoria services and is often the first contact for people who are newly diagnosed. In Victoria, there are an estimated 27,000 people living with Parkinson’s (PLWP), many of whom have contacted us at some stage for advice, information or support.</p> <p>The Health Service delivers a health professional education program and supports a comprehensive network of locally based support groups located throughout Victoria.</p> <p>The hub and spoke model of care connects generalist health professionals and client groups with specialist multi-disciplinary services and clinical researchers to increase knowledge, build capacity, and improve client outcomes and support better self- management.</p>
<p>Position Purpose / Scope</p>	<p>This is a new role in a multi-disciplinary team where a psychologist can bring complimentary skills to a team of professionals.</p> <p>The role will respond to calls received via a help line, and investigate feasibility with a view to develop carer support service that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific carer support group • Education program designed to support carer resilience • Developing a discrete program to support families impacted by Atypical Parkinson’s <p>Working within the broad determinants of health framework, the position interacts with individuals providing sensitive, responsive and comprehensive responses that are cognisant of the unique lifestyle factors that individuals living with Parkinson’s experience. The position has a role in more broadly positively impacting the social and community networks that PLWP are interacting with through the provision of health education.</p> <p>Developing and offering short term counselling to people living with Parkinson’s and Atypical Parkinson’s. And their carers through a variety of delivery means including face to face.</p> <p>People living with Parkinson’s make contact and expect current evidence-based information and an understanding of how Parkinson’s interactions throughout all aspects of their life. The position is required to have a well-developed understanding how each health determinant can be impacted through a diagnosis of Parkinson’s; Individual health practices and coping skills; finances; employment; social support networks; and their physical environments; Health Services; and their biology and genetic endowment.</p> <p>Individualised responses will enable people can have a better understanding of Parkinson’s, the resources available, and are better able to make informed decisions.</p>

Position Objectives	<p>To deliver information and education that increases PLWP's and their families better understanding of Parkinson's and related conditions enhancing self-management and confidence to seek services available within their community.</p> <p>To provide appropriate, accessible, high quality, and evidence-based information regarding Parkinson's.</p>
Key Areas of Responsibility	
Operations	<p>In collaboration with PV management, Health Service multi-disciplinary team members where appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of accurate and appropriate information for people living with Parkinson's; their families, carers, service providers and the wider community including face to face, telephone, and email. • Provide group Parkinson's education sessions and contribute to multidisciplinary group programs including community Peer Support Groups. • Contribute to the development and review of information/education resources for PLWP, carers, health professionals and students. • Assist in the planning, preparation, delivery and promotion of community and health professional education seminars. • Develop a framework on developing support and education for family cares to better understand the motor, non-motor, emotional and cognitive impact of Parkinson's • Undertake service development to respond to changing community need and government policy • Produce written materials regarding Parkinson's designed for clients, service providers, and health professionals. • Participate and deliver community awareness activities such as community seminars and education initiatives.
Policy and Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in Health Team program evaluation and planning and organisational planning as requested.
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain knowledge of current research in the neurological sector impacting PLWP. • Develop and maintain relevant and current information resources including research initiatives, symptom management, treatments, health and wellness, community services.
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain appropriate administrative records and provide monthly reports. • Data collection on responses to information requests, information provided. • Maintain client records on database.
Other duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in Parkinson's Victoria fundraising events and awareness activities from time to time. • Other duties as outlined by the Manager Operations and Development or CEO.
Key Selection Criteria	

Qualifications / skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed tertiary qualifications (to Bachelor’s level) in a health-related discipline (Psychology), a member of APS, and registered with AHPRA. • Significant experience working with people and groups living with chronic illness and their carers, and the complexity of issues associated with the disease. • Experience with public speaking • 2-3 years relevant experience counselling or in private practice • Demonstrated ability to contribute to the functioning of a multi-disciplinary team. • Demonstrated ability to provide person centred services to people living within the community including 1:1 support; secondary consultations; and group sessions. • Current Victorian Driver’s licence and a willingness to drive to regional Victoria as part of duties. • Well-developed interpersonal and communication skills (oral and written). • Ability to work autonomously under limited supervision, exercising sound professional judgement and seeking advice and consultation where appropriate.
Conditions of Employment	
Hours of Work	Hours to be negotiated 0.6 EFT predominantly 9am – 5pm Mon to Fri. Some flexibility is required due to the nature of the work. Also, some out of hours or weekend work may be required from time to time.
Pre-employment checks	The successful applicant will be required to undergo satisfactory pre-employment checks, including three professional referees, a criminal records check, and evidence of professional qualifications.

Position Description reviewed July 2018 Manager Health Education and Information Team.