POSITION DESCRIPTION

MENTAL HEALTH OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST – NEW ABILITY HEALTH

PURPOSE OF POSITION

To provide high quality, evidence-based Occupational Therapy services to people whose mental health affects their daily functioning, roles and participation, across Medicare (Better Access), NDIS psychosocial, DVA and private funding streams, with a focus on recovery-oriented practice and excellent customer care.

REPORTS TO

- Clinical Lead Occupational Therapist (clinical) and New Ability Health management team

DIRECT REPORTS

- Nil (supervision of other clinicians and students as negotiated with the management team)

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

- The Mental Health Occupational Therapist will be expected to apply evidence-based practice in mental health and psychosocial disability, with highly developed skills in functional assessment and intervention for adults and young people with a wide range of mental health presentations. They will work with clients and their families, carers and support staff using a client-focused, recovery-oriented and trauma-informed approach.
- The role works within New Ability Health's multidisciplinary team of psychology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, dietetics and behaviour support, contributing to shared care planning and case consultation, and working closely with administration staff, referrers, GPs and other services.
- Services may include focussed psychological strategies under Better Access (where endorsed), NDIS functional capacity assessments and capacity-building supports for psychosocial disability, and DVA mental health services.
- Clinical practice is undertaken within an individual's area and level of expertise and with due regard to ethical, legal, organisational, and profession-prescribed standards.
- Services are delivered primarily from the Hamilton practice and OT gym space, with home and community visits as clinically indicated. Staff may be required to work across multiple sites within Newcastle and surrounding areas, dependent on service needs.
- As experience and service needs grow, there is a pathway for the role to include clinical supervision, team education, senior clinical or leadership responsibilities, in negotiation with the management team.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

SERVICE DELIVERY

- Provide high quality, evidence-based occupational therapy assessment and intervention for mental health conditions, psychosocial disability and associated functional issues.
- Complete functional capacity assessments and clear, defensible reports for NDIS, DVA and other funders within required timeframes.
- Deliver focussed psychological strategies under Better Access in line with endorsement requirements (where endorsed).
- Develop and deliver recovery-oriented, goal-directed interventions that build daily living, social, vocational and community participation skills.
- Identify and respond to clinical risk in line with New Ability Health policies, escalating to senior clinicians and management as required.
- Participate in clinical review, multidisciplinary case consultation and audit processes.
- Effectively manage clinical caseload, maintain appropriate clinical documentation and follow data collection protocols.
- Maintain appropriate communication with referrers, GPs, treating teams and funding bodies.
- Ensure that all legal requirements, including child protection and privacy, are fulfilled.
- Contribute to a clinical culture characterised by quality and safe care, and respect for clients and their families/carers.

SERVICE SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

- Actively contribute to the New Ability Health team in building a quality service.
- Contribute to creating a welcoming and accepting environment.
- Promote the philosophy and values of New Ability Health.
- Contribute to the learning culture of New Ability Health.
- Work collaboratively with all New Ability Health staff to ensure a quality service to clients.
- Build and maintain effective working relationships with referrers and other services.
- Participate in New Ability Health quality improvement activities.
- Participate in regular OT clinical supervision.
- Provide supervision and case consultation to other clinicians and students if required.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

- Maintain own professional development as per AHPRA and OT Australia requirements, including any requirements for Better Access endorsement.
- Participate in education and information sessions for clients, their families/carers, service providers and the community.
- Participate in annual development of a learning and development plan.
- Provide education to the team in areas of clinical expertise as required.

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Take reasonable care of own health and safety and take reasonable care to protect the safety of others.
- Comply as far as possible with any reasonable instruction by management and comply

with New Ability Health policies and procedures relating to health and safety.
- Any other responsibility as directed by management within the general scope of the position and skill level of the employee.

SELECTION CRITERIA

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

- Relevant tertiary qualifications in occupational therapy, with general registration with AHPRA.
- Minimum 2 years' occupational therapy experience, including demonstrated experience delivering assessment and intervention to people with mental health conditions or psychosocial disability.
- Demonstrated experience conducting functional assessments and writing clear, defensible reports (e.g. NDIS).
- Knowledge of recovery-oriented and trauma-informed practice, and of clinical risk assessment and management.
- Experience with the NDIS system and required documentation.
- Excellent communication skills, including experience communicating with a diverse range of customers, including those with mental health, physical and intellectual disabilities.
- Excellent time management and organisation skills with a keen attention to detail.
- Demonstrated ability and flexibility in learning and adapting to new electronic systems.
- Able to use initiative to identify areas for improvement and implement changes.
- Demonstrated capacity to work autonomously, while being part of a multidisciplinary team.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

- Better Access to Mental Health endorsement via Occupational Therapy Australia (or eligibility to obtain it).
- Experience in community mental health or psychosocial disability support.
- Experience with DVA referral and reporting processes, or with veterans' mental health.
- Experience supervising or providing case consultation to other clinicians or students.
- Demonstrated experience working in a health service environment with clinical and administrative staff.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- NSW Working with Children Check
- National Police Check / criminal record check
- NDIS Worker Screening Check
- Professional indemnity insurance
- NSW Drivers licence, and own fully insured vehicle (travel allowance will be provided for work-related travel, in line with ATO guidelines).

ACCEPTANCE OF POSITION

I hereby accept the position as outlined above and agree to abide by the New Ability Health

values, policies and procedures.
I understand this Position Description is intended to provide a guide to the responsibilities and activities to be undertaken in this position, and that the position may involve other tasks and responsibilities that may arise.

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Signature Print Name

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Date