



ROLE DESCRIPTION

Role Title:	Chief Psychiatrist
Classification Code:	PSYCH01
LHN/ HN/ SAAS/ DHW:	Department for Health and Wellbeing (DHW)
Hospital/ Service/ Cluster	Not applicable
Division:	Office of the Chief Psychiatrist
Role reports to:	Chief Executive, DHW
Role Created/ Reviewed Date:	July 2025
Criminal and Relevant History Screening:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aged Care Sector (DHS) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Working With Children Check (WWCC) (DHS) <input type="checkbox"/> National Disability Insurance Scheme Worker Screening check (DHS) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check (NCCHC) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protective Security Clearance
Immunisation Risk Category Requirements:	<input type="checkbox"/> Category A (direct contact with blood or body substances) <input type="checkbox"/> Category B (indirect contact with blood or body substances) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Category C (minimal patient contact)

ROLE CONTEXT

Primary Objective(s) of role:

The Chief Psychiatrist is appointed by the Governor under section 89 of the *Mental Health Act 2009* to perform the functions set out in section 90 of that Act. In addition, the Chief Psychiatrist administers powers and functions derived from the *Suicide Prevention Act 2021*, *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935* and the *Health Care Act 2008*.

As a member of the Department's Senior Executive Committee, the Chief Psychiatrist will contribute to the promotion and provision of effective leadership, vision and strategic initiatives to ensure SA Health delivers valued and quality services to the community.

Key Relationships/ Interactions:

- > Reports to the Chief Executive and has management responsibility for the staff within the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist.
- > The position will have close working relationships with relevant Ministers, senior officers throughout SA Health, other government agencies (State and Commonwealth), and key community stakeholder organisations.

Challenges associated with Role:

Major challenges currently associated with the role include:

- > Overseeing the administration of the *Mental Health Act*.
- > Ensuring the governance and oversight for monitoring and influencing mental health care for the community.
- > Issuing standards for the care or treatment of patients as well as visit and inspect public and private

hospitals' premises.

- > Establishing and maintaining strategic relationships, alliances and networks with a range of key stakeholders within SA Health and across government.

Delegations:

- > The Chief Psychiatrist will hold functions and powers as established by the *Mental Health Act 2009*.

Key Result Area and Responsibilities

Key Result Areas	Major Responsibilities
<p>Administration of powers and functions derived from the Mental Health Act 2009, Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935, Suicide Prevention Act 2021, and the Health Care Act 2008.</p> <p>Implementation of powers and functions assigned by the Minister for Health and Wellbeing and the Chief Executive, DHW.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Promote continuous improvement in the organisation and the delivery of effective mental health services in South Australia. > Monitor the treatment of voluntary patients and patients to whom detention and treatment orders apply, and the use of restrictive practices in relation to such patients. > Monitor the administration of the <i>Mental Health Act 2009</i> and the standard of mental health care provided in South Australia. > Advise the Minister or delegate on issues relating to mental health and report to the Minister any matters of concern relating to the care or treatment of patients. > Provide any other functions assigned to the Chief Psychiatrist by the <i>Mental Health Act 2009</i> or any other Act or by the Minister or delegate. > Issue standards that are to be observed in the care or treatment of patients. > Undertake the role of the Chief Psychiatrist as set out in Chapter 8 of the <i>Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935</i>. > Lead the Safety and Quality, Mental Health Legislation and Policy, and Suicide Prevention Team's; and undertake independent statutory duties for DHW across these areas. > Plays an oversight role supporting the human rights of people who experience a mental health condition and their carers and families. A member of the Suicide Prevention Council and may make recommendations relating to suicide prevention in accordance with S29 of the <i>Suicide Prevention Act 2021</i>.
Annual Report requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Provide advice to the Minister in the capacity as an independent statutory role. > Plan an annual reporting strategy to ensure adherence to S92 of the <i>Mental Health Act 2009</i>. > The Chief Psychiatrist must, before 30 September in each year, present a report, the details of which are outlined in the <i>Mental Health Act 2009</i>.
Stakeholder relationships and consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Ensure that effective consultation and participation mechanisms are established to inform and provide input to the Mental Health planning and policy framework and that South Australia is involved and represented in national mental health reforms by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Key stakeholder management, particularly with external stakeholders at a local and national level to build sound service alliances and partnerships; ○ Working collaboratively with other Department for Health and Wellbeing Divisions for the integration of planning and policy

	<p>processes to ensure the achievement of the portfolio's strategic directions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing high level policy advice at relevant forums; ○ Participating in the development of National Mental Health Policy and Strategy; ○ Ensuring effective analysis of National policy proposals and programs; and ○ Monitoring and reporting on South Australia's performance against agreed National performance indicators.
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Knowledge, Skills and Experience

ESSENTIAL MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Educational/Vocational Qualifications

A qualification which enables registration with the Medical Board of South Australia as a Medical Practitioner.

Membership or Fellowship of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists or equivalent.

Personal Abilities/Aptitudes/Skills:

- > Outstanding leadership skills with a demonstrated ability to motivate and inspire others to work together to achieve objectives.
- > Demonstrated high level strategic thinking, planning and policy development skills.
- > Demonstrated ability to effect change and influence others in responding to change.
- > Extensive understanding of contemporary mental health service development issues.
- > Demonstrated ability to lead inter-agency and multi-disciplinary teams and develop and maintain relationships that will encourage co-operation, empowerment, and support.
- > Outstanding ability to communicate with and understand the needs of a wide range of stakeholders in the Government and non-Government sector.
- > Demonstrated ability to earn the trust and respect of consumers and carers who may possess a diverse range of values.
- > Demonstrated ability to negotiate at senior levels in the government and non-Government sector.
- > Demonstrated ability to analyse and conceptualise problems, formulate and execute appropriate solutions and negotiate successful outcomes.
- > Demonstrated ability to work effectively with a leadership team to provide a consistent direction for services.

Experience

- > Proven senior management experience in high level strategic planning and policy development, implementation, and evaluation in a health-related service area.
- > Experience in providing leadership in cross cultural and complex multi-disciplinary settings, in a climate of continuing change.
- > Previous experience in a clinical or service leadership role at a senior level.
- > Proven experience in the management of major change programs aimed at increasing the effectiveness and accountability of organisations and/or programs.
- > Experience in the successful management of a team to achieve corporate objectives.
- > Experience in the management of a significant budget.
- > Experience in program evaluation and continuous improvement programs.
- > Experience in strategic State and Commonwealth relationships that relate to health and mental health service provision.
- > Experience in complex service planning, development and implementation
- > Experience in inter-jurisdictional relations and negotiations at a high level.
- > Experience in negotiation with clinical leaders.

Knowledge

- > A sound knowledge of public health system operations at a National and State level, particularly as they relate to mental health services.
- > A demonstrated awareness of the political and socio-economic sensitivities that impact on the planning, development, funding, delivery, and management of health services.
- > Demonstrated ability to manage within allocated resources to deliver efficient customer focussed services.

DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS

Educational/Vocational Qualifications

Appropriate qualifications in Management, Health, or Health Related discipline.

Personal Abilities/Aptitudes/Skills:

Experience

- > Experience in negotiation with the non-Government sector for the delivery of services.

Knowledge

- > An understanding of emerging directions within the health industry in South Australia, nationally and internationally.
- > Knowledge of Public Sector management aims, personnel management standards and employee conduct standards, in particular Equal Employment Opportunity and Worker Health and Safety requirements.

Special Conditions / General Requirements:

- > It is mandatory to provide, prior to appointment, a satisfactory current Criminal and Relevant History Screening Check, as required by the SA Health Criminal and Relevant History Screening Policy Directive, and to meet any immunisation requirements outlined in the Immunisation for *Health Care Workers in South Australia* Policy Directive.
- > Actively participate in the SA Public Sector biannual performance review process requirements.
- > Adhere to the parameters of various legislative requirements including, but not limited to, *Public Sector Act 2009*, *Health Care Act 2008*, *Work Health & Safety Act 2012 (SA)*, *Return to Work Act 2014 (SA)*, relevant Regulations, and associated SA Health Policies and practices.
- > Uphold the Code of Ethics for the Australian Public Sector requirements, work within the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment's Directives, Determinations and Guidelines, and espouse the SA Health Values of Integrity, Respect, and Accountability.
- > Adhere to the reporting requirements of the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 2012 (SA)*.
- > As a WHS Defined Officer exercise due diligence to ensure compliance with S27 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)* and will take reasonably practicable steps to enable an effective health and safety culture and accountability across SA Health, in accordance with the Act.
- > Support the Department in its participation in the White Ribbon, Disability, and Reconciliation Agendas, and/or their successors.
- > Promote and maintain a commitment to an inclusive workplace that employs and supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other under-represented groups, and advocate Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity, including the prevention of bullying, harassment, and intimidation.
- > Create an inclusive and responsive environment where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers are welcomed, valued and respected for their cultural knowledge and lived experiences. Our commitment extends to enhancing culturally safe workplaces by investing in our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce, aligning with the SA Health Aboriginal Workforce Framework.
- > Elevate the cultural capability of our non-Aboriginal staff, ensuring they can drive meaningful improvements in the health system, policies, planning and practices. This ensures our services are responsive to the cultural needs identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Performance Development:

The incumbent will be required to participate in the organisation's Performance Review and Development Program which will include a regular review of the incumbent's performance against the responsibilities and key result areas associated with their position and a requirement to demonstrate appropriate behaviours which reflect a commitment to SA Health values and strategic directions.

Domestic and Family Violence

It is recognised that domestic or family violence has a devastating impact on the lives of those who experience abuse, and we are committed to supporting employees who experience domestic or family violence by providing a workplace environment that provides flexibility and supports their safety.

Handling of Official Information:

- SA Health employees will not access or attempt to access confidential and official information, including patient information, other than in connection with the performance of their duties and/or as authorised.
- SA Health employees will not misuse any information gained in their official capacity.
- SA Health employees will maintain the integrity and security of official or confidential information for which they are responsible.
- SA Health employees will ensure that the privacy of individuals is maintained and will only release or disclose information in accordance with relevant legislation, industrial instruments, policy, or lawful and reasonable direction.

White Ribbon:

SA Health has a position of zero tolerance towards men's violence against women in the workplace and the broader community. In accordance with this, the incumbent must at all times act in a manner that is non-threatening, courteous, and respectful and will comply with any instructions, policies, procedures or guidelines issued by SA Health regarding acceptable workplace behaviour.

Resilience:

SA Health employees persevere to achieve goals, stay calm under pressure and are open to feedback.

Organisational Context

Organisational Overview:

Our mission at SA Health is to lead and deliver a comprehensive and sustainable health system that aims to ensure healthier, longer and better lives for all South Australians. We will achieve our objectives by strengthening primary health care, enhancing hospital care, reforming mental health care and improving the health of Aboriginal people.

SA Health is committed to a health system that produces positive health outcomes by focusing on health promotion, illness prevention and early intervention. We will work with other government agencies and the community to address the environmental, socioeconomic, biological and behavioural determinants of health, and to achieve equitable health outcomes for all South Australians.

Our Legal Entities:

SA Health is the brand name for the health portfolio of services and agencies responsible to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. The Department for Health and Wellbeing is an administrative unit under *the Public Sector Act 2009*.

The legal entities include but are not limited to the Central Adelaide Local Health Network Inc., Northern Adelaide Local Health Network Inc., Southern Adelaide Local Health Network Inc., Women's and Children's Health Network Inc., Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network Inc., Eyre and Far North Local Health Network Inc., Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network Inc., Limestone Coast Local Health Network Inc., Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network Inc., Yorke and Northern Local Health Network Inc. and SA Ambulance Service Inc.

SA Health Challenges:

The health system is facing the challenges of an ageing population, increased incidence of chronic disease, workforce shortages, and ageing infrastructure. The SA Health Care Plan has been developed to meet these challenges and ensure South Australian's have access to the best available health care in hospitals, health care centres and through GPs and other providers.

Health Network/ Division/ Department:

The Office of the Chief Psychiatrist is a unit within the Department for Health and Wellbeing. The Chief Psychiatrist reports directly to the SA Health Chief Executive. The Office of the Chief Psychiatrist works closely with the Mental Health Strategy Unit located within the Strategy and Governance Division also within the Department for Health and Wellbeing.

Values

SA Health Values

The values of SA Health are used to indicate the type of conduct required by our employees and the conduct that our customers can expect from our health service:

- > We are committed to the values of integrity, respect and accountability.
- > We value care, excellence, innovation, creativity, leadership and equity in health care provision and health outcomes.
- > We demonstrate our values in our interactions with others in SA Health, the community, and those for whom we care.

Code of Ethics

The *Code of Ethics for the South Australian Public Sector* (Code of Ethics) provides an ethical framework for the public sector and applies to all public service employees.

- > Democratic Values - Helping the government, under the law to serve the people of South Australia.
- > Service, Respect and Courtesy - Serving the people of South Australia.
- > Honesty and Integrity- Acting at all times in such a way as to uphold the public trust.
- > Accountability- Holding ourselves accountable for everything we do.

- > Professional Conduct Standards- Exhibiting the highest standards of professional conduct.

As a public sector employee, you have a responsibility to maintain ethical behaviour and professional integrity standards. It is expected that you act in accordance with the Code of Ethics, and contribute to a culture of integrity within SA Health.

The Code of Ethics recognises that some public sector employees are also bound by codes of conduct relevant to their profession.

Approvals

Role Description Approval

I acknowledge that the role I currently occupy has the delegated authority to authorise this document.

Name: _____ **Role Title:** _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** / /

Role Acceptance

Incumbent Acceptance

I have read and understand the responsibilities associated with role, the role and organisational context and the values of SA Health as described within this document.

Name: _____ **Signature:** _____

Date: / /