



POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE:	Alcohol and other Drug Nurse Practitioner
PROGRAM:	Therapeutic Services & Capacity Building / The Centre Clinic
STATUS:	Part time (0.6 FTE) until 30 June 2024 with possibility of extension
REPORTING TO:	Alcohol and Other Drug Team Leader, Victoria
LOCATION:	The Victorian Pride Centre, and outreach locations in the South East Metro Primary Health Network region.
CLASSIFICATION:	Nurses Award 2020, Nurse Practitioner Year dependent on experience

1. ORGANISATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Thorne Harbour Health (THH) is an LGBTIQ+ community-controlled organisation, governed by our members, and working for our sex, sexuality and gender diverse communities.

For 35 years as the Victorian AIDS Council (VAC), the organisation led the Victorian community's response to HIV and AIDS. Our work has now moved beyond Victoria, and Thorne Harbour Health is responding to a broad range of issues. Thorne Harbour Health aims to improve the health, social and emotional well-being of LGBTIQ+ communities and those living with or affected by HIV, with a particular emphasis on bringing the HIV and AIDS epidemic to an end.

Our Vision

We envision a healthy future for our sex, sexuality and gender diverse communities, a future without HIV, where all people live with dignity and wellbeing.

Our Mission

We devise and deliver effective community-driven health and wellbeing programs. We advocate to reduce stigma and discrimination.

For more information on our organisation, please visit our website www.thorneharbour.org

2. PROGRAM CONTEXT, ROLE & FOCUS

Therapeutic Services and Capacity Building

The Therapeutic Services and Capacity Building teams provide specialist services to the LGBTIQ+ community, combining our counselling, alcohol and other drugs (AOD), family violence and capacity building programs. The teams seek to actively reduce barriers to AOD service for LGBTIQ+ community. Thorne Harbour Health's Services to the LGBTIQ+ community recognise the importance of specialist responses led by the LGBTIQ+ community for the community. These specialist services target the LGBTIQ+ community and people living with, at risk of, or affected by HIV.

The AOD Nurse Practitioner role is delivered as part of Thorne Harbour Health's Rainbow Recovery program and is funded through SEMPHN.

Service culture and the Centre Clinic

The Centre Clinic is an Australian General Practice Accredited Limited (AGPAL) accredited general practice that exists to provide high quality medical and allied services to LGBTIQ+ people, injecting drug users, people living with HIV/AIDS, and the HIV affected community.

The Centre Clinic has approximately 2000 active patients, including approximately 600 living with HIV. The successful candidate must be able to work with all members of the LGBTIQ+ and HIV positive communities with care, compassion and sensitivity.

The Centre Clinic engages GPs and GP Registrar trainees in extended skills training positions. All clinicians prescribe Highly Specialised Drugs from the S100 program to treat or prevent HIV Infection.

3. POSITION ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The AOD Nurse Practitioner provides clinical leadership, advanced AOD assessment and treatment, and capacity building across the AOD and other therapeutic services teams. A key focus of the role will be pharmacotherapy and withdrawal services to LGBTIQ+ and HIV+ people living within the South East Melbourne Primary Health Network (SEMPHN).

The AOD Nurse Practitioner will be clinically situated within The Centre Clinic and will practice from the Victorian Price Centre, 200 Hoddle St, and via outreach in the South East Melbourne Primary Health Network, as required.

The role's scope of practice includes, but is not limited to, prescribing medication, initiating diagnostic investigations, direct referral to health specialists, and the provision of absence from work certificates. It internally collaborates with GPs and nurses within Clinical Services, and the Therapeutic Services & Capacity Building teams; and externally collaborates with GPs, relevant private and community service providers, and family and carers.

Clinical Practice

- Comprehensive assessment of substance use disorders.
- Evidence-based addiction treatment for a range of substance use disorders, including withdrawal management.
- Prescription of withdrawal and pharmacotherapy medications, including on-site administration of long-acting injectable buprenorphine (LAIB).
- Referral and linkage to other relevant health services and professionals, particularly in relation to specialist addiction treatment.
- Ordering and interpretation of blood and urine pathology, and prescribing medication.
- Additional responsibilities can be tailored to the advanced practice specialty of the successful candidate, including treatment of co-occurring high and/or low-prevalence psychiatric presentations or a range of physical health interventions such as blood-borne viruses, sexual health and more generalised physical health concerns.

Leadership

- Clinical leadership to the AOD team.
- AOD consultation to Centre Clinic clinical staff and Therapeutic Services teams.
- Develop and maintain policies and procedures to guide the objectives and operations of the AOD team.
- Manage relationships with key internal and external partners to ensure effective clinical outcomes.
- Develop and maintain relationships with pharmacotherapy networks and Drug and Alcohol Clinical Advisory Service (DACAS) and Addiction Medicine Specialists (AMS) to support clinical outcomes.
- Collaborate with external clinical and AOD services, including residential withdrawal services, to improve access to LGBTIQ+ affirmative, sex-positive, and evidence-based treatments for consumers.
- Contribute to quality improvement processes and development of robust data and practice.

Education/training and professional development

- Contribute to workforce development via the provision of education and training.
- Offer regular in-service education opportunities to facilitate the exchange of specialist addiction and LGBTIQ+ health knowledge.
- Provide consumers and their important people with training and education to enhance self-management.
- Commit to ongoing professional development.

4. KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

Qualifications

- Registration as a Nurse Practitioner as per the Victorian Nurses and Midwifery Registration Board with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).
- Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) accredited Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Dependence (MATOD) training (preferred).
- Tertiary qualification in AOD or Mental Health (preferred).

Skills & Experience

1. Experience as a Nurse Practitioner working with people who use alcohol and other drugs
2. Experience working within a dual diagnosis framework
3. Relevant experience in clinical assessment and treatment of addiction, physical health and/or mental health
4. Experience working in community, outpatient and outreach settings
5. A demonstrated sensitivity to the issues that lesbian, gay men/MSM, bisexual and trans and gender diverse people face in accessing culturally sensitive and appropriate health care. A strong commitment to reducing these barriers and supporting these communities

5. CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

- The classification for the position is Nurses Award 2020, Nurse Practitioner Level 1 or 2, dependent on experience.
- Salary packaging is available at Thorne Harbour Health. It is a legitimate method of restructuring existing salary into a combination of salary and expense payment benefits to provide a higher net remuneration for the employee.
- Employer's contribution to superannuation will also be paid.
- Conditions of employment are as stated in the VAC/GMHC Employment Agreement 2014.
- The position is for 22.8 hrs per week.
- Completion by Thorne Harbour Health of a satisfactory police check.
- Evidence of a valid Working with Children Check.
- A willingness and ability to work flexible hours is required, including some early morning, evening and weekend meetings and other work-related commitments.
- A Confidentiality Agreement must be signed.
- Thorne Harbour Health is an equal opportunity employer. All staff members are required to contribute to creating a non-discriminatory workplace.
- Thorne Harbour Health provides a non-smoking workplace.
- Membership of the appropriate union is strongly encouraged.
- Applicants must either be Australian citizens or have permanent resident status.

6. PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISION

Thorne Harbour Health has a commitment to ensuring that staff members receive high quality supervision on a regular basis. This role is required to attend this supervision.

7. WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY

As an employee of Thorne Harbour Health, staff need to strive to ensure a safe and healthy workplace by complying with the provisions of Section 25 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Duties of Employees).

8. APPLICATION PROCESS

Written applications addressing the selection criteria and including a resume and the names and contact details of three professional referees should be sent to recruitment@thorneharbour.org

For further enquiries please contact: Lucy Burnett, Program Manager AOD on 9865 6700 or lucy.burnett@thorneharbour.org.

Applications close: Thursday, 28th September 2023.

Important: it is essential that applicants specifically address the selection criteria. Where selection criteria have not been addressed, applications will not be considered.