

Position Description

Position Title	First Nations Case Manager
Reporting To	Clinical Service Manager
Employment Status	Part Time Maximum Term
Classification	SCHADS Level 4
Team/Service	Latrobe Local Adult & Older Adult MH and Wellbeing Service
Direct Reports	N/A
Date	May 2026

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Neami's Mental Health and Wellbeing Service (MH&WS) is an innovative solution to deliver on the compelling vision outlined through the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System (RCVMHS). Delivered in partnership with Uniting and Drummond Street Services (DrummondSt), MH&WS brings together three organisations that are leading providers with extensive experience and success in the delivery of community-based care.

Neami Mental Health & Wellbeing Service provide a 'no wrong door' approach and support members of the community to be connected to the right support. The centre provides a holistic approach to care, addressing a range of social, physical, and emotional needs informed by the Collaborative Recovery Model (CRM). Neami Mental Health & Wellbeing Service will have a strong focus on lived experience and support a high engagement, multi-disciplinary team model.

The Neami MH&WS operates Monday to Saturday, and on Sundays by appointment.

Hours of work for this position will be in accordance with a Monday to Friday 5 day per week operating roster which may include occasional weekends and public holidays depending on service operational requirements. 0.8 EFT equates to working 4 days per week.

POSITION OVERVIEW

First Nations Case Manager staff (FNCMs) provide culturally safe & individually tailored case management services, psychosocial support, and wrap-around service linkage to Indigenous Australian consumers. FNCMs refer and facilitate access to integrated services that focus on consumers progressing towards consumer identified needs, and improved health and wellbeing outcomes alongside specialised services.

Support includes coordinating care with consumers, families and external stakeholders to navigate systems, services, and connection with supports available to them. FNCMs work is grounded in Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB), which is a multidimensional, holistic model of health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. They will build and maintain professional relationships with stakeholders and community partners to facilitate this holistic care.

FNCMs are required to use judgement to formulate responses to consumer needs over the long term, short term and in times of crisis.

The position works with all consumers accessing the program and provide culturally appropriate and competent support to consumers who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

THE POSITION

Key position Responsibilities, Duties and Accountabilities

- Work with the consumer and relevant parties (e.g. medical professionals, government services, community service providers), to evaluate the consumer's needs, wants, and goals in a holistic manner to formulate an individually tailored case plan. This could include considerations of mental health, AOD, legal, family, and physical health issues.
- Recognise and coordinate the specific needs of consumers and the complexities in the context of their support, such as those impacted by challenges with their mental health and wellbeing, substance use, experiences of family and domestic violence, behaviours that impact safety and socio-economic vulnerability.
- Using your Lived Experience as a First Nations person, provide culturally safe support to consumers.
- In collaboration with service & senior management, engage with local and sector-relevant Indigenous specific services and community-led groups to support the development of culturally safe & responsive inter-agency partnerships
- Provide case management and care coordination including working with other community partner organisations to deliver best possible comprehensive service to consumers.
- Attend local cultural and community events as per the needs of the consumer.
- Ensure that trauma-informed care is provided to the consumer.
- Identify and regularly review the consumer's development towards identified needs.
- Apply de-escalation and emotional regulation skills to support consumer and own/colleagues' safety and/or escalate to relevant services where appropriate.
- Assess and respond to safety concerns in collaboration with the consumer, colleagues, and managers, including engaging additional services/supports or emergency response where required.

- Complete safety assessments and plans collaboratively with the consumer and monitor at each consumer engagement.
- Advocate for appropriate care to be provided to consumers by other services.
- Connect consumers with relevant supports and services to assist with addressing unmet needs, and barriers to improving their health and wellbeing.
- Understand local service provision guidelines including eligibility criteria to support referral pathways.
- Provide appropriate support to consumers of diverse backgrounds.
- Provide support to consumers and work in alignment to Neami's Collaborative Relational Practice (CRP) Framework.
- Collaborate closely with team members and relevant stakeholders to ensure continuity of care and the provision of a comprehensive service to consumers, using the team approach that supports case management.
- Ensure all administrative requirements including case notes, assessments, collaborative care and safety plans, and incident reports are completed within the required timeframes.
- Facilitate collaborative care inter-agency meetings where required.
- Strive to understand the consumer's interests and relationships with family and friends, collaborating with them to strengthen their ability to engage with their community.
- Provide SEWB support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers.
- Participate in the regular collection of service data to inform evaluation of program outcomes and assist with the continuous improvement of the service.
- Actively participate in reflective practice through team meetings, decision-making processes, service planning session, cultural supervision and staff development activities.
- Engage with supervisor in completion of a probation assessment, an annual performance review, regular cultural supervision and a corresponding training and development plan.

Program Specific

- Networking with the local Koorie Court and law enforcement/justice agencies.
- Overseeing the applications and review of First Nations consumers who participate in the Work and Development Permit (WDP) scheme.
- Use outreach skills to engage consumers into the program upon receiving referrals.
- Facilitate groups as required.
- Assist consumers to participate in the community by supporting them to develop interpersonal skills.
- Support individuals to navigate times of crisis through linking them into community and other organisations for support and through the development of care plans
- Work closely with community agencies, cultural, recreation, and education services to create opportunities for consumers to meaningfully participate and engage with community and to support with referrals into the Local service.
- Provide advocacy for consumers navigating legal proceedings or incarceration.
- Work in collaboration with colleagues, partner organisations and other services to support consumers.

- Provide direct outreach support to consumers within transitional, community and home-based settings.
- Provide intake and eligibility assessment for consumers when required.
- Work with consumers to access program specific brokerage, as required.

Apply an understanding of trans-generational trauma to recognise trauma-related behaviours and implement strengths-based interventions that enhance consumer wellbeing.

Contribute to Community of Practices, Professional Development Sessions and Cross-sector meetings.

Records Management

- Ensure records management obligations are met, in accordance with Neami National policies and procedures. This includes the retention of hardcopy and/or electronic records and ensuring files are accurate and kept up to date.
- Commitment to understand service consumer data requirements and to collaborate with consumers to gather relevant data.
- Consideration of individual and aggregated consumer data to inform practice and continuous service improvement.

ORGANISATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

- Act at all times in accordance with the Neami National Code of Ethics.
- Work in accordance with Neami National policies and procedures, including adhering to policies on Privacy and Confidentiality and Records Management.
- Follow safe work practices for self and others and comply with Neami National Occupational Health and Safety management processes.
- Ensure risks are identified, reported, documented and appropriately managed in accordance with Neami Group policies to ensure safe and effective services.
- Proactively work towards achieving individual and team goals, whilst demonstrating Neami National core competencies and values.
- Actively engage in Professional Development opportunities and embrace learning opportunities.
- Take an active role in promoting and generating quality improvements processes within your area of responsibility and more generally across the organisation.
- Have a commitment to promoting a diverse and inclusive environment for all staff, consumers and carers.
- Have a commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.
- Work in line with Neami Credentialling and Scopes of Practice Policy and related procedures, including working within your individual scope of practice.
- In addition to the position description accountabilities, all staff are expected to undertake any reasonable tasks as directed.

THE PERSON

Experience, Knowledge, Qualifications, Skills and Attributes

Essential

- Identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Established knowledge of Aboriginal culture, kinship networks and social and emotional wellbeing.
- Experience working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities or organisations.
- Formal tertiary qualification in a related field and/or equivalent experience working in a relevant setting.
- Strong emotional resilience, including the ability to sit with discomfort and distress in complex situations.
- Shows genuine interest in and understanding of others, building strong connections with people at all levels while recognising the effects of trauma, mental distress, and the social determinants on health and wellbeing
- Ability to establish professional relationships that have clear boundaries with consumers, staff and partner organisations.
- Proven ability to work autonomously with minimal supervision and to prioritise multiple tasks to meet conflicting deadlines.
- Proven ability to maintain confidentiality and build trust to deal with sensitive and difficult situations.
- Be empathetic and have the ability to adapt communication style to meet the needs of a diverse range of people.
- Understanding the systemic social determinants causing homelessness and using this understanding to provide appropriate care to consumers from diverse backgrounds
- Ability to self-reflect, translate feedback into practice and engage in personal and professional development.
- Demonstrates emotional intelligence and resilience.
- Strong computer literacy and written communication skills
- A valid Working with Children Check.

A valid Australian Driving Licence

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF POSITION DESCRIPTION

This position description is current at date of approval. It may change from time to time to reflect operational needs and changes to organisational reporting relationships.

By signing your employment agreement, you acknowledge that you have read, understood and accept the responsibilities and accountabilities as outlined above in this position description.