



Position description

Title of the role:	LinC Volunteer
Program Area:	PARC
Location:	Various – across metropolitan Melbourne
Reports to:	Volunteer Coordinator
Last Revised:	9 June 2021

Wellways

Wellways works to improve the lives and social inclusion opportunities for people with a mental illness, their families and friends.

Our Vision

Our vision is of a society in which mental illness will be understood and accepted. People with mental illnesses will be afforded the same regard as those with physical illnesses and resources will be available to offer early interventions and state of the art treatment and support. These interventions will be so effective that long-term negative consequences of mental illness will have disappeared for the person and their family. People will no longer experience stigma and society will treat them with the same respect and dignity as any other person, and welcome and fully include them as community members.

Our Values

We value the contributions of people with mental illness, their families and friends in our organisation and the community and set out the following values that underpin all our activity. We strive to incorporate our values into all programs and activities and will work closely with every team member to champion these values across the organisation. The Wellways values are:

- Honesty
- Acceptance
- Equity
- Flexibility
- Commitment
- Participation

We work to achieve social inclusion in two ways – recovery and advocacy.

Recovery Services

Our recovery services are guided by our values and informed by our Community Recovery Model. This approach to Recovery means we work at 3 levels, with the individual, with their families and friends and with the community. Wellways Community Recovery Model recognises that developing skills, building confidence and strengthening relationships will help people to recover and to live independently. The model provides an evidence based approach to create individually tailored, effective recovery support packages. Wellways assists individuals to develop the capacity to manage their own wellbeing, equip family and friends with information and skills, and engage community members in support networks.



Advocacy Services

We have a strong advocacy program, informed by the lived experience of people with a mental illness, their families and friends. Members of Wellways play a vital role in developing our advocacy platform. We advocate for systemic change that will create better conditions and improved opportunities for people with a mental illness and their families.

All our recovery services and advocacy programs:

- Support and create opportunities for recovery
- Value cultural diversity
- Value peer participation and leadership (consumer and carer)
- Are underpinned by evidence-based best practice



PARC (Prevention and Recovery Care)

PARC provides short to medium term residential support for people with a mental illness. The service is staffed by trained professionals and supported by the Mental Health Service, operated by area mental health services in partnership with Wellways.

PARC provides a welcoming and supportive environment for a person with a mental illness needing short term support to get them through a difficult patch or to assist with getting back to living independently in their home. The service can help prevent people from requiring hospital admission or offer some additional support for people upon discharge from hospital. The PARC setting encourages links to participants' natural supports and their participation in community life.

LinC (Life in Community) Volunteer Position Summary

Volunteers will assist participants in the areas of social connection, inclusion and engagement. Volunteers will support participants to link in with a range of social and community networks. The role of the volunteers will be to facilitate the development of social connections and encourage the support of other community members to be inclusive. It is through developing these social connections participants can independently be active in community life.

Responsibilities

Key Functions	Key Performance Indicators
Key Responsibilities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet with participant for 1 - 2 hours weekly or fortnightly• A commitment to the volunteer program for a minimum of 12 months• Participate in a range of community and recreational activities• Maintain regular, timely contact with Volunteer Coordinator• Develop networks in the community• Participate in supportive supervision with Volunteer Coordinator• Prepared to travel reasonable distances• Keeping receipts of spending while matched for reimbursement
Selection Criteria: Capacity to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be accepting, patient, respectful and non-judgemental• Be reliable• Comply with program guidelines• Set and apply boundaries• Ability to self-reflect• Use effective self-care strategies• Work independently and as part of a team• Use effective communication skills• Effectively link in with local community• Comply with confidentiality and duty of care guidelines• Satisfactorily complete processes and requirements• Work with culturally and linguistically diverse communities and individuals.

Application Process:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend an interview • Provide one referee • Satisfactorily complete a national police check (Wellways pays for this) • Satisfactorily demonstrate a capacity to meet the volunteer program criteria • Obtain a Working with Children Check and provide a copy to the volunteer supervisor adding Wellways to your check • Renew Working with Children Check when it expires • Complete NDIS worker orientation module • Satisfactorily complete any other necessary checks • Attend training • Attend orientation at a PARC facility
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Essential Requirements, Knowledge, Experience and Skills

Essential Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of local community • Life experience • Empathy, caring, compassion • Open to constructive feedback • Self-motivated • Be able to catch public transport • Appropriate IT skills • Mobile Phone is necessary
Potential Benefits to the participant or carer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support with the transition from PARC to home • Foster independence and belonging to community • Broaden social networks in the community • Encourage naturally forming social links in the community • Reduce isolation, loneliness, stigma • Improve sense of well-being • Reconnecting or discovering social and recreational activities in your local community
Potential Benefits to the volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply previously acquired skills and knowledge • Enjoy a rewarding relationship and having fun • Opportunity to be creative and innovative in your approach to volunteering • Contributing to a person's life with meaning and purpose • Develop new skills through training and ongoing education • Develop a broader understanding of mental health and recovery • Contribute to reducing the stigma around mental illness in the community • Creating change in communities



Additional Information

This position description may be modified from time to time to reflect organisational changes. Any changes will be discussed and agreed with the incumbent.

Financial Delegation: As per delegation schedule

People – Number of Directs: n/a

Travel Percentage: As Required

On Call: n/a

Special Requirements: n/a