

Position Description

Position title	Dietitian – Paediatric Rotational Program
Department / Division	Nutrition & Food Services Department
Classification	Grade 1 Yr 4 to Grade 1 Year 7 (A14 – A17)
Position reports to	Manager Nutrition & Food Services
No. of direct & indirect reports	N/A
Location	The Royal Children's Hospital, Flemington Road, Parkville
Risk category	Category A - works in a direct patient contact role and has or potential to have exposure to blood or body fluids.

The Royal Children's Hospital
The Royal Children's Hospital's (RCH) vision is <i>"A world where all kids thrive"</i>. RCH is located within the Melbourne Biomedical Precinct, with more than 45 world-class biomedical organisations and more than 50,000 of the brightest minds working together to make the Precinct number one in the Asia Pacific region for health, education, research, and training. Within this, RCH is also a cornerstone member of the Melbourne Children's Campus, partnering with Murdoch Children's Research Institute, The University of Melbourne Department of Paediatrics and The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation. Each organisation contributes to a paediatric academic health centre which is greater than the sum of its parts. RCH has cared for the children and young people of Victoria for more than 150 years since it was founded in 1870. A full range of paediatric and adolescent health services are provided plus tertiary and quaternary care for the most critically ill and medically complex patients in Victoria, Tasmania, southern NSW and other states around Australia and overseas. The RCH is the only provider of heart transplant services and CAR T-cell therapy for paediatrics in Australia. RCH is an effective advocate for patients and their families with a particular focus on vulnerable children and increasingly, mental health in young people. The hospital also supports many health promotion and prevention programs. The Hospital has more than 6,000 staff, a budget of \$850M, 12 wards and 350 beds. Annually, the RCH has 300,000+ Specialist Clinic appointments, 90,000+ Emergency Department presentations and 20,000 elective surgeries. We work collaboratively with hospitals to deliver the right care, in the right place, at the right time. The RCH is committed to the Child Safe Standards https://www.rch.org.au/quality/child-safety/. RCH enjoys high employee engagement and is committed to staff safety and a positive culture through enactment of our Compact. Further information on RCH is available at www.rch.org.au

ROLE CONTEXT
The Nutrition and Food Services Department sits within the Allied Health Directorate within the Division of Ambulatory Services at the Royal Children's Hospital.

The Department of Nutrition and Food Services is a large department incorporating the clinical dietetic service, the Main Kitchen and the Central Formula room. RCH dietitians provide around 2000 direct patient encounters monthly servicing both inpatients and outpatients.

ROLE PURPOSE

The primary responsibility of this position is provision of high-quality nutritional care to paediatric patients (0-18y) and their families within a variety of specialist/medical units in the inpatient and outpatient setting. Dietitians provide services to inpatient units and to outpatient clinics and are available to consult on all aspects of paediatric nutrition including assessment, recommendations for nutritional management, implementation and education of therapeutic diets, enteral feeding and tube weaning.

We are a registered NDIS Nutrition service to provide disability-related nutrition supports to eligible patients. We also support a large number of patients on our Home Enteral Nutrition Program.

As part of the Paediatric Rotational Program, the Grade 1 Dietitian will rotate across different clinical areas 6 monthly within the Nutrition & Food Services Department. Rotation compositions may change over time with respect to demand and workforce requirements, but areas likely to be included in the rotation include:

- General Medicine
- Oncology
- Cardiology
- Diabetes
- HEN

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

Provision of Care

- Deliver excellent evidence-based practice dietetic assessments and interventions to patients according to established clinical protocols and in collaboration with senior clinicians as required
- Ensure timely provision of clinical services through appropriate prioritisation of own caseload and patient needs informed by a prioritisation tool
- Maintain clinical documentation, records and data as per discipline specific guidelines and RCH procedures
- Provide clinical handover to required standard
- Actively contribute to continuous improvement

Lifelong Learning

- Participate in professional development activities to ensure that best clinical practice is maintained
- Meet the CPD requirements of Dietitians Australia
- Identify personal and professional development needs, and plan and implement strategies for achieving them
- Achieve and maintain competency in relevant skills in line with departmental requirements relevant to the role
- Recognise own limits and seek assistance from supervisors or senior clinicians when appropriate

Collaborative practice

- Provide child centred, family focused care through partnership with parents/ families
- Work in collaboration with multidisciplinary teams
- Demonstrate ability to cooperate and work well with others in the pursuit of team goals
- Actively participate as part of a team to ensure ongoing excellence in service delivery and contribute to continuous improvement
- Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to the needs of patients and their families and work together within appropriate boundaries
- Work in a flexible manner and participate in other duties as allocated, consistent with skill level, to ensure adequate cover and clinical care across the whole Nutrition Department service.

Communication

- Demonstrate well-developed verbal communication and interpersonal skills and attention to detail with the ability to interact with a variety of stakeholders
- Communicate effectively with patients and families to ensure their understanding and that their needs and views are included in plans and actions
- Recognise issues that may lead to conflict, and constructively address issues as they arise with escalation to senior clinicians as appropriate

Continuous Improvement

- With support, identify concerns about systems or processes and raises these with supervisor or manager

Supervision, Leadership and People Management

- Participate in clinical supervision in accordance with local standard operating procedures and/or the RCH Allied Health Clinical Supervision Guideline which are based on the DHHS Allied Health Clinical Supervision Framework

Organisation and Planning

- Apply developed organisational skills
- Manage own work schedule and contribute to department workload cover, with escalation to supervisor/s when working to full capacity.

Research

- Understand the principles of evidence-based practice
- Evaluate current practice with respect to the evidence
- Find, critically review, evaluate & interpret literature and apply to current role/service

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Essential:

- Hold a degree in Dietetics from an accredited course/university, or for overseas candidates The Dietetic Skills Recognition assessment administered by DA
- Meet the eligibility criteria for full Membership of Dietitians Australia (DA)
- Meet the eligibility criteria for the Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) Program targets or equivalent
- Uphold the Dietitians Australia Code of Conduct

Desirable:

- Demonstrated experience working in an acute tertiary hospital environment
- Demonstrated experience working with infants, children or young people
- Demonstrated experience in providing prioritised services within a busy, acute environment.
- Post-basic training in paediatric nutrition, or willingness to undertake the RCH Certificate of Paediatric Nutrition and Dietetics during employment

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

- Excellent professional, interprofessional, interaction and self-reflection skills to enable effective work with people of different personalities and backgrounds
- The ability to engage children of different ages and abilities
- Ability to advocate for patients and their families
- Ability to work within a team, but also independently
- Ability to work in an acute care time-frame

- Ability to balance sometimes competing and conflicting priorities
- Excellent computer literacy skills
- Professional demeanour.
- Demonstrated commitment to ongoing education and skill development.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Employees are required to undertake a National Criminal Record Check and a Working with Children Check prior to commencing employment
- Employees are required to maintain a valid Working with Children Check throughout their employment
- Employees are required to maintain compliance with RCHs "Staff Immunisation - Prevention of Vaccine Preventable Diseases" procedure.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

All employees are required to adhere to the Royal Children's Hospital Values:

- Curious - We are creative, playful and collaborative
- Courageous - We pursue our goals with determination, ambition and confidence
- Inclusive - We embrace diversity, communicate well, build connections and celebrate our successes together
- Kind - We are generous, warm and understanding

RCH COMPACT

All new and existing employees commit to the RCH Compact to contribute to a strong and respectful culture.

- We do better work caring for children and families when we also care for each other
- I bring a positive attitude to work – I share, I laugh, I enjoy other's company
- I take responsibility for my behaviour and its impact on others
- I am curious and seek out ways to constantly learn and improve
- I celebrate the good stuff, the small stuff, the big stuff – it all matters
- I speak up when things aren't right
- I value the many different roles it takes to deliver great patient care
- I actively listen because I want to understand others and make better decisions
- I am inclusive and value diversity
- When it comes to teamwork, I don't hold back – I'm all in

QUALITY, SAFETY AND IMPROVEMENT

RCH employees have a responsibility and accountability to contribute to the organisation's commitment to Quality, Safety and Improvement by:

- Acting in accordance and complying with all relevant Safety and Quality policies and procedures
- Identifying risks, reporting and being actively involved in risk mitigation strategies
- Participating in and actively contributing to quality improvement programs
- Complying with the requirements of the National Safety & Quality Health Service Standards
- Complying with all relevant clinical and/or competency standards
- Complying with the principles of Patient and Family Centred Care that relate to this position

The RCH is committed to a diverse and inclusive workforce. We encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, all members of the LGBTQI community and people with disability.

Position description last updated

November 2025