

Position Description

Position title	Art Therapist
Department / Division	Children's Cancer Centre (CCC)/ Medicine
Classification	Grade 2, Year 1 to Grade 2, Year 4 (AT57 to AT60)
Position reports to	Coordinator Psycho-Oncology, Children's Cancer Centre
No. of direct & indirect reports	n/a
Location	The Royal Children's Hospital, Flemington Road, Parkville
Risk category	Category B - works in a patient facing setting but rarely or unlikely to have contact with blood or body fluids (or aerosols without PPE)

The Royal Children's Hospital
<p>The Royal Children's Hospital's (RCH) vision is <i>a world where all kids thrive</i>.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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/.</p> <p>RCH enjoys high employee engagement and is committed to staff safety and a positive culture through enactment of our Compact.</p> <p>Further information on RCH is available at www.rch.org.au</p>

ROLE CONTEXT
<p>The Children's Cancer Centre (CCC) at The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) opened in October 2006. The CCC is the only provider of complex children's cancer care and stem cell transplantation in the state of Victoria. The CCC is recognised as an international leader in the research and treatment of childhood cancer, each year treating around 300 newly diagnosed cancer patients under the age of 18 and many children receive ongoing treatment and/or active patient follow up.</p> <p>The CCC aims for the highest standards in diagnosis, research, treatment, and support. The CCC comprises inpatient wards with designated bone marrow transplant beds, a day oncology unit, and outpatient clinic area including allied health facilities, a dedicated oncology pharmacy, and a research program with state-of-the-art laboratory facilities, a clinical trials office and an administrative centre.</p>
ROLE PURPOSE
<p>The Art Therapist provides Art Therapy services to children and adolescents who are inpatients and outpatients in the Children's Cancer Centre to enhance patients' and families' capacity to adapt to their experiences of hospitalisation, illness and treatment. The Art Therapy program is provided as part of an integrated psycho-oncology program which involves a multidisciplinary approach to patient care.</p> <p>This role includes providing education and secondary consultation to allied health, nursing and medical staff within the RCH and engagement with other service providers and external stakeholders, and provides supervision of postgraduate Art Therapy students. It also involves participation in research and evaluation protocols to assess program outcomes as well as contribution to the writing of documents and reports related to the Art Therapy program.</p>
KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES
<p>Provision of Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a developmentally-appropriate, evidence-based Art Therapy program for oncology patients • Develop and deliver Art Therapy session plans in consultation with the child/family/treating team, based upon assessment, to enhance patient coping and adaptation to hospitalisation and oncology treatment • Prioritise and co-ordinate patient referrals through appropriate prioritisation of own caseload, to ensure the coordinated and timely provision of clinical Art Therapy services across the inpatient and outpatient setting • Maintain clinical documentation, records and data as per discipline specific guidelines and RCH procedures <p>Lifelong Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in professional development activities to ensure that best clinical practice is maintained • Identify personal and professional development needs, and plan, and implement strategies for achieving them • Provide effective supervision to students on placement, and education to departmental staff as required <p>Collaborative Practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in collaboration with multi-disciplinary teams to implement and/or contribute to group-based creative therapy programs in the CCC • Contribute to an environment in the Inpatient wards, Day Cancer and Outpatient setting that stimulates interest and engagement in art activities

- Foster partnerships with parents through supportive relationships, emotional support, information and role modelling

Communication

- Communication effectively with patients and families to ensure their understanding and that their needs and views are included in plans and actions
- Consider different points of view and compromise, where necessary and appropriate, to reach consensus

Continuous Improvement

- Actively contributes, as an individual and as a member of a team, to the continuous improvement of health care quality and patient safety
- Contribute to departmental meetings, professional development programs, and continuous quality assurance programs as required

Supervision, Leadership and People Management

- Provide supervision to postgraduate Art Therapy students on placement in the RCH CCC
- 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
- Work in accordance with RCH policies and procedures, including Occupational Health and Safety, Equal Employment Opportunity and Confidentiality

Research

- Evaluate evidence from literature and research to determine appropriate actions for practice and participate in research activity as required
- Contribute to psychooncology research as part of the multi-disciplinary team

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Essential:

- Hold a Bachelors degree in psychology, fine arts, occupational therapy or equivalent. Hold a Masters degree in Art therapy from an ANZATA approved university or college. Meet the standards of professional development as determined by ANZATA. Uphold the code ethics.
- Thorough understanding of childhood development
- Demonstrated commitment to work and contribute as part of a team
- Previous experience utilising Art Therapy modalities in working with children
- Demonstrated/embedded clinical practice and experience beyond entry-level

Desirable:

- Experience providing Art Therapy services to hospitalised and seriously ill children

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

- Demonstrated ability to provide assessment and delivery of Art Therapy programs for children, adolescents and families
- Demonstrated ability to evaluate clinical plans for effectiveness, efficiency and quality in the paediatric population and accurately document outcomes
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively within a multi-disciplinary framework
- Evidence of good interpersonal skills, organisation and communication
- Demonstrated ability to build and maintain working relationships with key internal and external stakeholders
- Excellent communication, organisational and time management skills
- Demonstrated attention to detail with the ability to interact with a variety of stakeholders
- Demonstrated understanding of childhood development 0-18 years
- 3+ years' experience providing Art Therapy services

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

August 2025