

Position Description

Position Title	Medical Consultant in Paediatric Palliative Medicine		
Unit / Branch	Palliative Care - Victorian Paediatric Palliative Care Program (VPPCP) Division of Medicine and Division of Operations		
Classification	Snr Specialist Year 1- 9 HN16 to HN59	Employment Status	Part-time, fixed term 0.4 FTE
Position reports to	Head of Unit- VPPCP		
No. of direct reports	n/a		
Location	The Royal Children's Hospital, Flemington Road, Parkville		
Position Contact	Dr Bronwyn Sacks – Director, Victorian Paediatric Palliative Care Program – 03 9345 5374		
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 a world where all kids thrive.

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 Victorian Paediatric Palliative Care Program (VPPCP) is a state-wide service located within both the Division of Medicine and the Division of Operations and is an alliance between The Royal Children's Hospital, Monash Children's Hospital and Very Special Kids.

The VPPCP utilises a multi-disciplinary consultation-liaison model of care that provides consultation to health professionals across Victoria in the acute paediatric and community palliative care sectors. The Program manages a Flexible Funding Program which provides funding for services and equipment which families cannot access through other programs.

The aim of the VPPCP is to ensure the best possible palliative care is provided to children with life-limiting conditions and their families.

ROLE PURPOSE

The role of the Paediatric Palliative Care Consultant is to ensure the provision of specialist medical input in to the care of children with palliative care needs and help build the capacity of the existing paediatric and palliative care sectors to deliver best practice palliative care for children and their families across Victoria.

The role requires a presence at both RCH and the Monash Children's Hospital. Home and hospice visits and visits to other hospitals across Victoria will also be required.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

The clinical role is one of consultation-liaison rather than direct care. The consultant in paediatric palliative care:

- Effectively applies the principles of palliative care to paediatric practice
- Facilitates the identification and timely referral of children with palliative care needs
- Demonstrates effective and sensitive communication skills
- Provides clinical input into the care of children with palliative care needs including:
 - The provision of options of care and information
 - Symptom management
 - Decision-making including advance care planning
 - Care planning and coordination
- Demonstrates a capacity to work across care settings (hospital, home, hospice)
- Liaises with health professionals across the paediatric, palliative care and community sectors including paediatricians, general practitioners and palliative care physicians,
- Demonstrates a capacity to work with children, their families and the health professionals caring for them,
- Contributes to the holistic care of the patient and family by working as part of an interdisciplinary team,
- Ensures patient-related documentation complies with hospital and Program standards.

The consultant in paediatric palliative care leads and contributes to efforts to build capacity in the broader system through:

- Provision of education
- Supervision of trainees in paediatrics, palliative medicine and paediatric palliative medicine
- Advocacy for the needs of children and families
- Initiation of and participation in, quality improvement activities
- Development of resources for health professionals
- Research

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Eligible for or has current registration as a Medical Practitioner with AHPRA
- A higher qualification in Paediatric Palliative Medicine (FACHPM)
- Clinical experience working at consultant level in paediatric or adult palliative medicine

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

- Excellent interpersonal, communication and presentation skills
- Ability to build and maintain working relationships with a range of stakeholders
- Ability to work both autonomously and as part of a team
- Highly developed organising and planning skills with the ability to change priorities accordingly
- Demonstrated understanding of working with acutely or chronically ill patients and vulnerable children
- Comfortable working with children who are dying and their families
- Advanced computer skills including programs in the Microsoft Office Suite and experience/knowledge of data system usage

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
- A current, full driver's licence for the State of Victoria which is appropriate for the type of vehicle being driven, and comply with any restrictions on their licence (e.g. wearing glasses) while undertaking hospital duties (if applicable)
- 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

July 2026