Position Description

Reconnect Case Worker
(Corrections Victoria Reintegration Program)
ABI Specialist

Introduction:

arbias programs are tailored to meet the individual and diverse needs of people with an acquired brain injury, specializing in alcohol and other substance related brain impairment and high complex needs. A key objective of this service is to work with people who are in crisis and at risk of alienating their support networks, becoming isolated from the community or homeless.

The foundation of arbias’ work is partnership, building on individuals’ strengths, and supporting people to identify strategies in planning for their future. Through person-centered principles, we value community inclusion, strengthening informal supports, advocacy and negotiating access to services.

arbias has a strong partnership with another key organisation called ACSO. In 2014 ACSO were successful in gaining funding through Corrections Victoria:

*The Victorian Department of Justice through Corrections Victoria adopted a new model for the delivery of transitional services to individuals exiting prison effective as of 1st January 2015. The aim of the Corrections Victoria Reintegration Program (Reconnect) is to provide an effective reintegration program for eligible prisoners exiting custody to address their individual and complex transitional needs through a responsive, tailored and flexible support approach to facilitate community reintegration and reduce re-offending. The key objectives of the program are to:*
  1. implement an individualised transitional plan for exiting prisoners which addresses key needs to reduce re-offending and ensures continuity of care
  2. provide assertive outreach and practical assistance to participants to successfully reintegrate into the community
  3. assist offenders to address issues relating to the underlying causes of their offending and achieve positive outcomes in key intervention areas.

The Reconnect Case Worker is responsible for formulating an individualised transition plan and providing post release intensive outreach in accordance with the transitional and future goals of the participant.
arbias is a partner organisation in this program in the South East Region and is employing ABI specialist workers to undertake support to post-release individuals with an ABI and high complex needs as well as secondary consultation to colleagues on ABI specific strategies.

The arbias Reconnect Case Workers will be based in Dandenong at the ACSO office and will work as part of the ACSO CVRP team. Day to day support and supervision will be provided by ACSO with arbias specialist ABI support, mentoring and supervision undertaken on a regular basis. The positions are employed by arbias.

The Reconnect Case Worker position is accountable to ACSO CVRP management in the first instance and ultimately to the arbias Team Leader Community Facilitation and the State Wide Manager Victoria.

**Responsibilities:**

- Reviewing and updating the client’s transition plan in line with CVRP ‘Critical Needs Areas’.
- Providing outreach that provides a localised response and focuses on the client’s critical needs areas as stipulated in the client’s transition plan.
- Pro-actively maintain contact with participants at all times during the post release period; actively promoting and encouraging the participant’s continued engagement in the program via monitoring the ongoing mental and physical health and wellbeing of the client and advocating for the client as to facilitate access to full social participation.
- Provide intensive support in the immediate post release period in accordance with package guidelines, including transport from prison and to initial appointments.
- Actively support referrals to other single focused, specialist services to facilitate participant access to services with a strong focus on building social and economic participation, addressing behaviours of concern and reducing recidivism.
- Coordinate a range of activities to address participants’ transitional needs and work toward equipping participants with an improved capacity to identify and take up opportunities to make life improvements on their own.
- Provide structured exit planning from the program and provide any necessary links to supports a participant may need following his exit from the program.
- Working collaboratively with CV and CCS Case Managers, liaising and consulting with other staff of the agency and attending meetings as required (Intra-agency and external).
- Liaise with relevant external stakeholders or services (e.g. the Adult Parole Board, Drug & Alcohol, mental health and employment services) to ensure a coordinated approach to the participant’s case management.
- Attending appointments with client permission that are relevant to the transition plan.
- Undergoing any training necessary to the role as identified by management and maintaining any qualifications necessary to the role.
**Other**

- Adherence to ACSO and arbias organisational policies and procedures, including a demonstrated commitment to occupational health and safety practices and guidelines
- Participation in training and professional development as identified and requested
- Participation in organisational meetings (including case management and client services team meetings and arbias staff meetings) and strategic planning processes as requested
- Other duties as required by ACSO management and the arbias Team Leader Community Facilitation, State-wide Manager Victoria and/or Chief Executive Officer

This position is based at the ACSO South East office and may require travel across Victoria and may require some weekend work.

**Key Selection Criteria:**

- A Diploma level qualification relevant to the delivery and management of health and welfare services.
- Experience in the provision of services to people with a disability and, in particular, people with an acquired brain injury, high complex needs, dual diagnosis and behaviours of concern
- An ability to develop positive relationships with participants and model appropriate social behaviours by communicating messages clearly and sensitively.
- The ability to work as part of a team in a multi-disciplinary environment, as well as to work autonomously with a high degree of organisational skill.
- Knowledge of the criminal justice and prison systems and an ability to work within a prison environment.
- Knowledge of the range of health, welfare and community agencies operating in the community
- A demonstrated ability to communicate, work with, and understand the needs of the various client groups such as individuals with mental health, alcohol and other drugs, justice and homelessness issues
- A demonstrated knowledge of the relevant and current legislation and policy relating to the client group as listed above.
- Excellent administration skills including developing case plans, professional case noting, writing court reports and effective time management skills.
- Expertise in applying a person centred approach to all aspects of work
- The ability to implement skill development and behaviour support plans.
- High level interpersonal skills and an ability to communicate and negotiate, liaise and consult effectively with a range of people.
Other Requirements of the Position:

- Commitment to the *arbias* vision, mission and objectives and alignment with organisational values
- Well developed computer skills
- First aid level 2
- Current Victorian Driver's License

Approval

I approve the above Position Description

Signed: ..................................................  Date: ....../....../........

Position: ..................................................
(Supervisor/Manager)

Incumbent Statement :

I have read, understand and accept the above Position Description.

Signed: ..................................................  Date: ....../....../.......