



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING ASSISTANT
Reports To:	<i>Community Leader ACT and Health and Wellbeing Coordinator</i>
Location:	<i>Community Central A Residential Care Facilities and Sisters living independently across the ACT including Goulburn, Orange, Bathurst and Lithgow.</i>
Parameters:	<i>12 Month Maximum Term Contract Part Time: 2-3 days per week 15-18 hours per week</i>
Date Prepared:	<i>September 2023</i>
Approved By:	<i>Community Leader ACT/Human Resources Manager/Health and Wellbeing Manager</i>

Organisational Context

The Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea (“Institute”) is a religious congregation of Catholic women who endeavour to advance the Reign of God by engaging in the spiritual and corporate works of mercy.

In all aspects of their lives, Sisters of Mercy are motivated by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and inspired by the founding vision of Venerable Catherine McAuley who, with two companions, began the Sisters of Mercy in Dublin in 1831.

Sisters of the Institute are governed by an elected Leader and Council (the Leadership) and serve individually in a variety of ministries.

Concerning its day to day administration, the Institute is served by a dedicated team of people who deliver a broad range of professional and administrative services from a number of locations throughout Australia and Papua New Guinea. These employees work closely with their colleagues, the Executive Director ISMAPNG, the Leadership and the Institute’s communities.

There is an expectation that all employees will consistently respect and uphold the workplace values of the Institute which are:

- Integrity
- Hospitality
- Unity of purpose
- Diligence for Excellence
- Respect for all



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Primary Purpose of the Position

To provide person-centered and wholistic support to the sisters living in Central A whilst encouraging their strengths, independence, and autonomy.

This role will require travel to/from ACT including Goulburn, Orange, Bathurst and Lithgow to monitor and plan for the health and wellbeing needs of each sister. Visits will be as required or as requested by the Community Leader and/or Health and Wellbeing Coordinator.

Reporting Relationships

<u>Direct Reports to this position</u>	<u>Indirect Reports to this position</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• N/A

Key Relationships

<u>Internal</u>	<u>External</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Leader ACT• Health & Wellbeing Coordinator• Health & Wellbeing team members• Community Support Assistant• Alphington office (as required)• Sister of Mercy pastoral carer(s) for residential care facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff of Residential Care Facilities including GP, Medical Specialists, Allied Health staff and Nursing staff• Sisters' family members, as applicable

Key Decision Making

<p><u>Decisions Expected</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flexible adaptive care and support for the general wellbeing of sisters to meets their changing needs
<p><u>Recommendations Expected</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liaise with the Community Leader and Health and Wellbeing Coordinator in relation to any significant changes in the Sisters' lives• Only activities within this positions scope of practice will be undertaken



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Key Accountabilities and Responsibilities

Health and Wellbeing Care in a Residential Facility

- Arrange visits on an individual needs basis and in consultation with Community Leader and Health and Wellbeing Coordinator to sisters living in aged care facilities
- Provide practical assistance to sisters experiencing difficulties adjusting to the ageing process. Act as an advocate with their health related issues and enable them to obtain the best medical attention
- If required, accompany sisters to appointments, inform the nurse on duty of departure time and expected return time and ensure the sister has the required documentation for the appointment. On return to the facility, report to the nurse on duty relevant details of the appointment and recommendations for follow up. Document outcomes on SharePoint.
- Communicate any observed changes in the general health of the sisters, including incidents and injuries, to the Nurse in charge at the facility, the Community Leader and Health and Wellbeing Coordinator
- Establish a professional and supportive relationship with each sister, demonstrating an interest in her, her care and wellbeing, and provide an opportunity for her to express her concerns and wishes, or just 'chat', in a safe environment
- Be aware of Sisters' needs, which may be unspoken
- Ensure Personal Carers at the facilities assist with meals, as required
- Be alert and responsive to the personal needs of the sisters e.g. grooming. dressing, hygiene
- Attend to a sister's personal items, (if requested and with sensitivity) e.g. organising and sorting clothing, drawers, wardrobes and cupboards and advise the facility staff and /or Health and Wellbeing Coordinator if something is lacking in a sister's personal care
- Ensuring walking aids and other equipment which sisters use is clean, functional and well maintained. Report concerns around safety of equipment to the Nurse in charge and the Health and Wellbeing Coordinator and document action on Sharepoint.
- Assist with reading and writing of letters, making phone calls or using an electronic device like an iPad
- Assist sisters with visitors and/or making phone calls to family and friends, if required
- Provide encouragement for sisters to attend facility initiatives e.g. exercise classes and social interactions
- Where safe and approved by facility staff, take sister for a walk to strengthen balance and mobility and to experience a change of environment
- Accompany and transport sisters to and from celebratory functions and undertake shopping as required
- Alert the appropriate person at the facility (the Nurse on duty, the Manager or Maintenance person) of any maintenance issues and document this on Sharepoint
- Advise the Community Leader if you become aware that a sister has registered a concern/complaint to an employee of the facility
- Assist with financial and banking needs for the Sisters as required



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Extraordinary Responsibilities

At times of extraordinary circumstances the following activities may incur additional hours of work, with the prior approval of the Community Leader:

- Times when Sisters are seriously ill in hospital
- Times when a Sister is dying
- At the end of preparation for a Sisters Requiem Mass and funeral

Health and Wellbeing Care for a sister living in the Community Setting

Arrange visits on an individual needs basis and in consultation with Community Leader and Health and Wellbeing Coordinator, to sisters living in independent living units or in the community.

In consultation with the Health and Wellbeing Coordinator and Community Leader, the following tasks and responsibilities may be required for some sisters living independently:

- Provide assistance and emotional support to ensure the care and wellbeing of the sisters, giving special attention to anyone with particular needs e.g. illness/mental wellness
- Communicate any changes in sister's physical, mental or cognitive ability to the Health & Wellbeing Coordinator
- Undertake wellbeing activities in liaison with an individual sister
- Advise Health and Wellbeing Coordinator if care needs are not being accurately met and sister requires support of formal services in the community or in relation to a residential setting
- Act in the role of the sister's advocate where required and communicate outcomes with the Health and Wellbeing Coordinator
- Be alert and responsive to the personal needs of the sisters e.g. grooming, clothing and hygiene. Report any issues to the Health & Wellbeing Coordinator
- Ensuring walking aids and other equipment that sisters use is clean, functional and well maintained. Report concerns regarding safety of equipment to the Health and Wellbeing Coordinator and document action on Sharepoint.
- As required:
 - Assist with reading and writing letters
 - Assist with family visits
 - Personal shopping (if sister receives a Home Care Package or Commonwealth Home Support Program, this service should undertake this activity)
 - Accompany and transport sisters to and from medical and dental appointments if Sister is unable to drive/or cannot access appointment independently. (If a sister has Home Care Package or Commonwealth Home Support Program this service is



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encouraged to transport a sister to the following appointments: hairdresser, beautician, physiotherapy, and non-medical appointments)

- Assist with coordination of major celebrations including birthdays, liturgical and jubilees
- Attending to the disposal of a Sister's personal belongings after her death or when moving into residential care with the support of Perth Sisters

Teamwork, Communication and Administration

- Regularly monitor and observe sisters and report any concerns or significant changes to the Community Leader and Health and Wellbeing Coordinator
- Liaise with the Health and Wellbeing Coordinator regarding a sisters formal services and the needs of the sister
- Work collaboratively with the Health and Wellbeing team members
- Maintain accurate records on Sharepoint for sister and communicate any urgent needs/changes via phone or email.
- Prepare a schedule of all proposed visits a week in advance and submit to Health and Wellbeing Coordinator
- Attend scheduled team meetings with the Health and Wellbeing Coordinator and Health and Wellbeing Team
- Ensure all sisters' rights and confidentiality is maintained at all times
- Immediately report any incidents which may relate to abuse, neglect or exploitation of a person receiving care to the Nurse in charge of the facility, the Community Leader and the Health and Wellbeing Coordinator
- Ensure timesheets are signed and submitted at the designated time to the Community Support Assistant each fortnight
- Adhere to policies, procedures, workplace instructions and the Code of Conduct
- Adhere to safe work practices and ensure safe working environment for sister, yourself and your colleagues and report any hazards or incidents
- Participate in training as required for the position
- Other duties as directed

Values and Formation

- Demonstrate values and behaviours that are in line with the values and ethos of ISMAPNG including an alignment with the mission of hearing the cry of Earth and the cry of those rendered poor, in the context of Integral Ecology and care for our common home
- Actively participate in Mercy formation available within the Institute



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Safety of Children and Vulnerable Adults

The Institute is committed to ensuring zero tolerance of abuse in all its forms by creating a culture of safety and respect for all, including prioritising the safety and best interest of all children and vulnerable adults with whom we have contact. All staff and those who work with us are expected to take all reasonable steps to ensure the protection of children and vulnerable adults and to comply with our safeguarding policies and procedures, including responding to and reporting all suspicions and allegations of abuse.

Staff who have access to children through their role must have a valid Working with Children Check. All other staff, prior to commencement, must have a valid National Police Check.

Workplace Health and Safety

- Identify and respond to any safety issues
- Attend the workplace and adhere to the Institute's COVID-19 safety guidelines
- Comply with all WHS accountabilities and responsibilities relevant to the position as defined in WHS/P – 004 Structure and Responsibilities in the WHS Management System.

Qualifications, Experience & Competencies

- Appropriate training, skills and/or qualifications in Home and Community Care or Aged Care, Aged Care Training, knowledge of mental health, dementia issues, minimum of Certificate III (desirable)
- A current unrestricted Class C Driver's Licence with an ability to travel as required/rostered to each geographical location to ensure each sister's health and wellbeing needs are understood and supported
- Commitment to teamwork and team accountability and an ability to take initiative and work independently when required
- Strong knowledge of aged care principles
- Excellent communication and timely reporting and record keeping skills
- Sensitivity to catholic values and culture
- Ability to handle sensitive inquiries with tact and discretion
- A personal desire to support sisters to live valued and meaningful lives
- Punctual and reliable
- A commitment to uphold and support gospel values and Mercy ethos



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Other Matters

- All employees and contractors are required to comply with the policies and procedures adopted by the Institute
- This Position Description is subject to any Letter of Offer relating to the position
- This Position Description is not intended to be all inclusive. All employees are expected to undertake other tasks and take on other responsibilities reasonably required to meet the Position Objective.