

Position Description
Support Group Facilitator - Volunteer



Anxiety Disorders Association of Victoria, Inc.

June 2018

Job Title: Support Group Facilitator

Reports to: Support Group Coordinator and Support Services Assistant.

Working Hours: 2.75 hours per group meeting (7.00pm – 9.45pm)

Work days: Monday or Tuesday evenings (dependent on group location)

Term: Voluntary with a commitment of 12 months (approximately 20 – 25 meetings)

Location: Assigned to one of four (4) locations in metropolitan Melbourne (Altona, Coburg, Camberwell and Berwick)

Requirements:

Training and Development requirements: In addition to attending for facilitation shifts, there is a requirement to attend an initial training session (duration of eight hours, typically held on a weekend), as well as to attend quarterly group supervision and team meetings (duration of two hours, held on a weeknight).

Financial requirements: As ADAVIC is a self-funded organization, there are financial requirements relating to this position which help to cover our costs. Requirements for this position include:

- ADAVIC Membership (\$45 annual fee)
- Volunteer Training and Supervision fee (\$50 annual fee)

Position Summary:

ADAVIC provides weekly facilitated peer support group meetings for the general public across several metropolitan locations. Meetings are co-facilitated by ADAVIC volunteers to ensure the safe and effective operation of these meetings, and to enable a supportive and encouraging atmosphere for peer-discussion and psycho-education of anxiety and depression.

Purpose of the role:

Facilitators assist group participants to discuss experiences relating to anxiety and depression by providing a safe and comfortable setting, and leading by example about appropriate topics and means of communication.

Facilitators utilize processes which encourage and elicit discussion rather than diagnose problems or prescribe change. As such the role may be different to a therapy role, and Facilitators are not required to be fully trained or registered mental health professionals. However, empathy, respect and professionalism are required qualities from Facilitators.

Main duties and responsibilities

Support Group Facilitation typically includes the following tasks:

- Assisting diverse individuals to come together as a group and discuss issues and experiences related to Anxiety and Depression disorders.
- Ensuring the group experience is maintained as supportive, friendly and safe so that personal and vulnerable experiences can be discussed without fear of intimidation or embarrassment.
- Defusing and averting conflict situations.
- Directing discussion at support group meetings.
- Providing a focus of discussion regarding mental health issues and experiences related to Anxiety, Depression, Social Phobia, Panic Disorder, Agoraphobia, Self-Esteem issues, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.
- Providing psycho-education regarding the nature of and treatment of anxiety disorders when required.
- Preparing and presenting information relating to Anxiety disorders as required.
- Being involved in de-briefing procedures with fellow facilitators at the conclusion of support meetings
- Attending team meetings, training sessions, and group supervision sessions to gain feedback and to ensure continual learning and development.
- Collecting statistics and writing reports relating to the progress of support group meetings.
- Will require to attend at least two (2) training sessions a year that are scheduled by ADAVIC for further personal and professional development (these will be free of charge)
- Will need to liaise with Head Office from time to time.

If volunteers stay beyond their 12 month commitment they will be required to take part in a refresher facilitator training session at the reduced price of \$25.00 and continue to receive supervision.

Skills & Experience required

- A graduate degree in psychology, social sciences, humanities or related areas
- An understanding of the issues involved in anxiety disorders
- Excellent communication skills
- Confident public speaker
- Assertiveness and an ability to direct and guide others
- Ability to work with a diverse range of personalities
- Ability to fulfil tasks as part of a team, especially in a co-facilitation environment
- Able to use judgment and act on own initiative
- Reliable and dependable

About ADAVIC

Anxiety Disorders Association of Victoria is a not-for-profit, self-funded organisation. We provide support, information and resources to individuals suffering from or affected by anxiety, depression, and related issues.

Our unique grass-roots service bridges the gap between the individual, the local community, and health professionals. Our practical services have a positive effect on our client's lives through:

- reassuring people that they are not alone in their distress and that assistance is available
- providing information and resources to assist in a wide-range of self-help solutions; from information packs, books, CDs, and online services through to lectures, courses and workshops
- encouraging people to overcome their fears and sense of isolation by participating in support groups and attending social events
- promoting professional help; through running workshops, providing an online directory of therapists, and phone referrals to health professionals
- helping all of those affected by anxiety and depression issues, including sufferers, carers, parents, family and friends
- raising awareness and de-stigmatising anxiety and depression in the general community
- offering information and services to help equip health professionals