

BLACK DOG INSTITUTE

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

YOUTH PRESENTER

Are you motivated to improve the understanding of mood disorders amongst young people and willing to share your personal experience of mental illness? The Black Dog Institute is looking for passionate volunteers to be trained to deliver our dynamic school education presentations.

What does a Youth Presenter do?

A Black Dog Institute Youth Presenter is someone trained to deliver the INSIGHT Mental Health Awareness presentation to young people in secondary schools. This presentation aims to help reduce stigma associated with mental illness, and educate adolescents on the signs and symptoms of depression and bipolar disorder, and encourage help seeking and early intervention.

Selection Criteria

- Proven experience in delivering presentations and demonstrated presentation skills.
- Excellent verbal and interpersonal skills.
- Personal experience with a mood disorder and willingness to share your story as part of a set presentation.
- Own car, or access to public transport.
- Ability to engage with schools and youth focused organisations to identify and generate opportunities to present.
- Flexible availability to present during school term.

How does the Institute provide support?

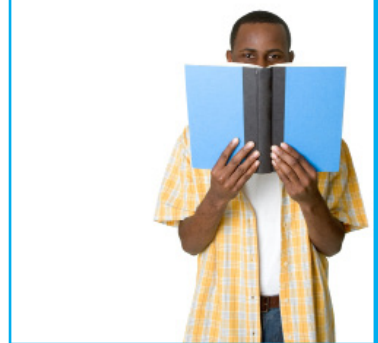
- Reimbursement of out of pocket expenses.
- Ongoing training and development opportunities.
- Opportunity to share your time with like minded people motivated to making a difference in mental health.

To access the position description and to apply, please go to: www.blackdoginstitute.org.au (Get involved). For enquiries, contact Sarah Connor, Volunteer Coordinator, on 02 9382 9250, or email sarah.connor@blackdog.org.au



BLACK DOG INSTITUTE

The Black Dog Institute is an educational, research, clinical and community-oriented facility offering specialist expertise in mood disorders - a range of disorders that include depression and bipolar disorder. The Institute is attached to the Prince of Wales Hospital and affiliated with the University of New South Wales.





Position Title	Youth Presenter
Department	Community Programs
Organisation	Black Dog Institute
Supervisor	Volunteer Coordinator

Black Dog Institute Mission

The Black Dog Institute's mission is to advance the understanding, diagnosis and management of mood disorders by continuously raising clinical, research, education and training standards. In so doing, the Black Dog Institute aims to improve the lives of those affected - and in turn - the lives of their families and friends.

Primary Objectives

The primary objective of the Youth Presenter is to enhance secondary school students understanding of mood disorders by providing access to the Institute's expert knowledge in depression and bipolar disorder, along with the presenter's disclosure of their personal experience with mental illness.

Through delivery of the INSIGHT Mental Health Awareness program and dissemination of the Institute's educational resources in schools, the Youth Presenter aims to increase awareness and reduce stigma associated with mental illness, and encourage help seeking and early intervention for young people with mood disorders.

Key Responsibilities

The Youth Presenter is responsible for:

- High quality delivery of the INSIGHT program in secondary schools;
- Ensuring Volunteer and Teacher evaluations are completed and returned to the Volunteer Coordinator after each presentation;
- Actively identifying new areas for INSIGHT presentations and generating opportunities through own networks;
- Representing the Institute in a professional and responsible manner; and,
- Adhering to Institute policies and procedures.



Additional Requirements

- Debriefing with the Volunteer Coordinator as required.
- Distribution of the Institute's resources in community forums, such as information stalls, expos and conferences (optional).
- Responding to the public's enquiries in accordance with the Black Dog Institute's policies and procedures;
- Ensuring that your health and wellbeing are not compromised when performing duties as a volunteer; and,
- Maintain regular contact with the Volunteer Coordinator to provide and receive regular feedback and participate in ongoing professional development and training offered by the Institute's Volunteer Program.

Person Specification - Selection Criteria

- Proven experience in delivering presentations and demonstrated presentation skills.
- Personal experience with a mood disorder and willingness to share your story as part of a set educational presentation.
- Excellent verbal and interpersonal communication skills with the ability to relate to and engage youth.
- Ability to engage with schools and youth focused organisations to identify and generate opportunities to present.
- Flexible availability to present during school hours.
- Willingness to travel (where required).
- Own car, or access to public transport.

Working Relationships

This role reports to the Volunteer Coordinator. The Volunteer Coordinator is the central point for contact and provides ongoing support and feedback as required.

This role also has interaction with the Youth Project Manager and staff and managers from across the organisation as required.

The Youth Presenter is required to work under minimal supervision.

Volunteer Training and Development

The Youth Presenter is required to attend the Black Dog Institute Youth Presenter training before commencement of the role.

Performance evaluation and feedback will be provided by the Volunteer Coordinator to support personal development.

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Position Description



Screening Requirements

This position is required to sign a Prohibited Employment Declaration form and undergo two working referee checks.

Time Commitment

The commitment required for the Youth Presenter is 1 year.

Challenges and Limitations of the Role

Challenges of the role may include:

- Responding to distressed students during or following a presentation (volunteer may need to consider personal vulnerabilities in such instances);
- Disclosing your personal story; and,
- Presenting to young audiences with varying levels of knowledge, experience and interest.

The limitations on the role of the Youth Presenter are set out as a protection against risks for both Volunteers and students. The Youth Presenter:

- Must not provide advice or personal opinion regarding diagnosis or treatment of depression or bipolar disorder;
- Must not recommend medications;
- Must not engage in counseling people with mood disorders on behalf of the Black Dog Institute;
- Must not engage with the media without prior approval; and,
- Must not deliver any Black Dog Institute presentation without prior approval from the Volunteer Coordinator.