



Sexual  
Assault  
Support  
Service

## Redress Scheme Counsellor – Position Description

<b>Job Description:</b>	Redress Scheme Counsellor
<b>Position reports to:</b>	Senior Practitioner
<b>Hours per fortnight:</b>	45.6 (0.5 FTE)
<b>Award:</b>	Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010
<b>Salary:</b>	Level 6.1
<b>Location:</b>	North West Coast, Tasmania

The Redress Scheme Counsellor role is part of a team of professionals working at the Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS). SASS is a community-based support, counselling and education service for survivors of sexual abuse, their families, other professionals and the community. As part of this, SASS delivers state-wide support to people seeking information about, contemplating applying to or already applying to the National Redress Scheme for people who experienced child sexual abuse in institutional contexts.

This position is not based at the main SASS office in Hobart, but is a single SASS role co-located within another community organisation. The role will be supported through informal and formal support structures by the Senior Practitioner and the SASS team.

The role will require regular intra-state travel between the Burnie, Circular Head and West Coast regions.

SASS is funded by the Tasmanian Department of Communities (DCT) and by the Australian Department of Social Services (DSS).

### **PRIMARY FUNCTIONS:**

The Redress Scheme Counsellor position is responsible for:

- Providing case management services to survivors seeking information on or to engage with the National Redress Scheme.
- Providing practical support to clients including providing information about the Scheme and assisting clients to complete the Scheme's application, as well as supporting people to access other appropriate services such as legal and financial counselling or other community services
- Providing individual counselling and support services to survivors of institutional child sexual abuse, their families and other professionals involved in their support.
- Effectively and autonomously managing a case load of clients.
- Promoting the Redress Scheme and SASS' services to and building relationships with the community and local service providers.

- Co-ordinating cross-agency responses to the needs of survivors of institutional child sexual assault including advocacy and crisis support.
- Participating with other SASS workers in providing a professional, flexible and responsive team environment.
- Undertaking case debrief, professional development activities and supervision.
- Contributing to the ongoing development of SASS policies and programs within a continuous quality improvement framework.

## **LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY**

The Redress Scheme Counsellor will:

- Work under the direction of a Senior Practitioner
- Work as a collaborative member of the SASS Team
- Exercise initiative and sound judgement in setting priorities, planning and managing their work load
- Adhere to all SASS policies and procedures, including the Code of Conduct.
- Exercise initiative and sound judgement where procedures are not clearly defined
- Raise issues or concerns with the Senior Practitioner or Manager Services and Policy as soon as practicable.

## **QUALIFICATIONS, TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE**

### **Essential**

- Understanding of issues associated with sexual assault
- A commitment to social justice
- Degree in counselling, psychology or social work with eligibility for membership of the relevant professional association (APS, AASW or PACFA)
- Knowledge and understanding of complex trauma and how to apply this in implementing therapeutic approaches
- Relevant post-graduate experience
- A National Police Check
- Working With Children Registration
- Computer literacy

### **Desirable**

- Relevant post-graduate qualification
- Training/experience in working with children and adolescents; Aboriginal people; people with disabilities; members of CALD communities; and/or male clients.
- Current driver's licence

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

The following knowledge, skills and experience are required for the position of Redress Scheme Counsellor:

1. Knowledge and understanding of issues relating to sexual assault, particularly institutional child sexual assault, and how they may impact on victim's lives and community attitudes about sexual assault.

2. Knowledge and experience of relevant assessment, case management and counselling approaches including responses to trauma and experience in crisis or general counselling work.
3. Experience in supporting clients through advocacy and enabling roles and by facilitating their access to and engagement with appropriate services.
4. Capacity and willingness to work effectively within a multi-disciplinary team and to be flexible and adaptable in order to meet the organisation's needs.
5. Strong ability to work autonomously as an outreach worker who is located separate to the main SASS office.
6. Ability to exercise initiative and integrity in their relationships with clients and in their professional role with SASS.
7. Knowledge and understanding of frameworks of ethical practice; confidentiality; the requirements of mandatory reporting; and relevant state and national laws.
8. Well developed written and verbal communication skills including presentation and report writing skills.
9. Demonstrated ability to apply computing concepts in programs including Microsoft Office, incorporating Word, Excel, Access, and Outlook (for use of electronic calendars and email), the internet and other computer software.
10. Demonstrated time management and priority setting skills along with the capacity to achieve outcomes in an environment where there are multiple demands and complex tasks and to participate collaboratively in planning and coordinating activities across the workplace.