

Therapeutic Specialist Position Description



Position title:	Therapeutic Specialist
Position reports to:	Senior Practitioner
Hours per fortnight:	Flexible: 45.6 to 60.8 hours (0.6 to 0.8 FTE)
Award:	Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010
Salary:	Level 6
Location:	31-33 Tower Road, New Town, Tasmania

About the role

The Therapeutic Specialist position is responsible for:

- Providing assessment, case planning and case management services to survivors of sexual abuse.
- Providing individual, family and group counselling and support services to survivors of sexual abuse, their families and other professionals involved in their support.
- Supporting a case load of clients involving an average of three client appointments per working day.
- Providing therapeutic support and advocacy to survivors of sexual abuse in outreach settings including the Tasmania Prison Service, and to survivors eligible for the National Redress Scheme.
- Co-ordinating cross-agency responses to meet the needs of survivors of sexual assault including advocacy, crisis and court support.
- Liaising with child safety agencies regarding children at risk of sexual abuse.
- Providing effective client hand-over to other SASS staff and the Senior Practitioner.
- Participating with other SASS workers in providing a professional, flexible and responsive team environment.
- Undertaking regular case reviews, professional development activities and supervision.
- Contributing to the ongoing development of SASS policies and programs within a continuous quality improvement framework.

About SASS

The Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS) is a community-based support and counselling service for those who have been affected by sexual abuse. SASS also offers primary prevention education for schools, organisations, community groups and individuals.

SASS is funded by the Tasmanian Department of Communities (DoC), the Australian Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Department of Education (DoE).

There are four operational areas within the organisation: counselling services (counselling and crisis response), training, administration and finance.

SASS is a values-based organisation, and these values listed below underpin the way we work:

- client-focus
- sincerity

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- collaboration
- professionalism

As an employee of SASS, we will expect you and all staff to be committed to:

- Safeguarding children and young people. You will be required to adhere to the standards set out in our Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy with respect to keeping children and young people safe from any form of abuse. This includes mandatory reporting where required.
- Maintaining a safe and healthy work environment by working safely and adhering to all relevant policies and procedures.
- Actively engaging with regular internal and/or external supervision and professional development.
- Demonstrating professional workplace behaviours at all times in accordance with SASS's Code of Conduct and consistently adhering to organisational policies, procedures, standards and practices.

Level of responsibility

The Therapeutic Specialist 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 workload
- 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 General Manager – Counselling Services 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 (PACFA, APS or AASW).
- Relevant post graduation human services experience
- A National Police Check
- Working With Vulnerable People Registration
- Computer literacy

Desirable

- Relevant post-graduate qualification
- Training/experience in working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Therapeutic Specialist:

1. Knowledge and understanding of issues relating to 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. Ability to work autonomously and exercise initiative and integrity in their relationships with clients and in their professional role with SASS.
6. Knowledge and understanding of frameworks of ethical practice; confidentiality; the requirements of mandatory reporting; and relevant state and national laws.
7. Well developed written and verbal communication skills including presentation and report writing skills.
8. Demonstrated ability to apply computing concepts in programs including Microsoft Office, incorporating Word, Excel and Outlook (for use of email), the internet and other computer software.
9. 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.