



Therapeutic Specialist – Position Description

Job Description:	Therapeutic Specialist
Position reports to:	Senior Practitioner
Hours per fortnight:	Flexible – part-time and full-time positions available
Award:	Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010
Salary:	Level 6
Location:	31-33 Tower Road, New Town, Tasmania

The Organisation and Organisational Responsibilities

The Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS) is a community-based support and counselling service for those who have been affected by sexual abuse.

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

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

The following values underpin the way we work: client-focus, sincerity, collaboration, professionalism.

As an employee of SASS we will expect you 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.
- 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.

PRIMARY FUNCTIONS

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.
- 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, physical, psychological abuse and neglect
- 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.

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 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
- Passionate about working with children, young people, and families
- 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).
- Relevant post graduation human services experience
- A National Police Check
- Working With Children Registration
- Computer literacy

Desirable

- Knowledge of childhood development
- Relevant post-graduate qualification
- Training/experience in working with children and adolescents; 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.