

# Therapeutic Specialist Position Description



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<b>Position Title:</b>	<b>Therapeutic Specialist</b>
<b>Position reports to:</b>	Senior Practitioner
<b>Hours per fortnight:</b>	Minimum 0.6 FTE to full-time (depending on candidate)
<b>Award:</b>	Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award (SCHADS) 2010
<b>Salary:</b>	SCHADS Level 6.1
<b>Location:</b>	114 Bathurst Street, Hobart TAS 7000

## About SASS

The Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS) is a not-for-profit organisation committed to creating a healthy, safe Tasmania free from sexual violence.

SASS services include specialised therapeutic support for survivors of sexual violence and their supporters, as well as primary prevention education and training for organisations, institutions, and communities. Together, we are building a future where respect and safety are at the centre of every Tasmanian community.

SASS is funded by the Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC), the Tasmanian Department of Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) and the Australian Department of Social Services (DSS).

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

- client-focus
- sincerity
- 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.
- 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.

## About the role

The Therapeutic Specialist role 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 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.

## 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

- Minimum of two years professional experience working in a counselling/therapeutic setting and/or experience working with victim-survivors of sexual harm and have an understanding of associated concerns and presentations.
- Degree in counselling, social work or psychology
- Understanding of issues associated with sexual assault
- Working knowledge of trauma informed practice
- A commitment to social justice
- A sound understanding of relevant mandated reporting and risk response legislation
- A sound understanding of an ethical practice framework
- A National Police Check
- Working With Vulnerable People Registration
- Computer literacy

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## Desirable

- Eligibility for membership of the relevant professional association (APS or AASW or PACFA)
- 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, evidence-based 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. Experience in working with diverse communities including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, LGBTQIA+, migrants and members of culturally, linguistically diverse communities, neurodiversity or people with disability.
5. Demonstrated experience and willingness to work within a multidisciplinary team, as well as with external stakeholders, to meet both client and organisational needs.
6. Sound time management skills as well as demonstrated ability to work autonomously, exercise initiative and manage competing priorities.
7. Knowledge and understanding of frameworks of ethical practice; confidentiality; the requirements of mandatory reporting; and relevant state and national legislation.
8. Well-developed written and verbal communication skills including presentation and report writing skills and the use of computing platforms such as Word, Excel and Outlook.
9. Ability to maintain boundaries and integrity in relationships with clients and external stakeholders.