

Therapeutic Specialist - PAST Program Position Description



Job Description:	Therapeutic Specialist - PAST Program
Position reports to:	Senior Practitioner - PAST Program
Hours per fortnight:	45.6 hours (0.6FTE) to 60.8 hours (0.8FTE) per fortnight
Award:	Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award (SCHADS) 2010
Salary:	SCHADS Level 6.1 + superannuation + salary packaging
Location:	Devonport or Launceston

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.

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- 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 Prevention Assessment Support and Treatment (PAST) program specifically supports children and young people under the age of 18 years, who have engaged in inappropriate, problematic and/or harmful sexual behaviour (HSB). The PAST program involves a broad scope of work with young people who may present with complex trauma, neurodiversity, learning disorders, disabilities and other complex behaviours or presentations. The PAST Program is run in collaboration with Mission Australia statewide.

The Therapeutic Specialist – PAST Program will be working directly with children, young people and their families to provide support and therapeutic interventions around inappropriate, problematic and/or harmful sexual behaviour (HSB). HSB occurs for a variety of reasons, and it is the role of therapeutic specialist to assess the origins of the behaviour to allow for targeted planning, support and intervention. The role of Therapeutic Specialist – PAST Program, will include assessment, intervention, case formulation and care plans, case reviews and supervision with the senior practitioner, case notes and report writing, and care team meetings with other stakeholders. Therapeutic Specialists working within the PAST Program will receive ongoing professional development and clinical supervision specific to HSB, to ensure that young people and their families are receiving trauma-informed and evidence-based interventions specific to their needs.

Key Responsibilities

The Therapeutic Specialist PAST Program position is responsible for:

- Providing assessment, case planning and case management services to children and young people displaying inappropriate, problematic and/or harmful sexual behaviours.
- Providing individual, family and group counselling and support services to children and young people, 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 with Mission Australia to ensure cross-agency responses meet the needs of children and young people including advocacy, crisis and court support.
- Liaising with child safety agencies regarding children at risk of sexual abuse or harm.
- Participating with other SASS and Mission Australia 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.
- Working under the direction of a Senior Practitioner
- Exercising initiative and sound judgement in setting priorities, planning and managing their workload
- Adhering to all SASS policies and procedures, including the Code of Conduct.
- Exercising initiative and sound judgement where procedures are not clearly defined
- Raising issues or concerns with the Senior Practitioner or State Clinical Lead – PAST Program as soon as practicable.

Qualifications, training and experience

Essential

- Degree in counselling, social work or psychology or similar with eligibility for membership of the relevant professional association (AHPRA, APS, ACA, AASW or PACFA)
- Have a 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.
- Have knowledge and experience in working with children and young people in the areas of neurodiversity, complex trauma, disability and/or family therapy
- Have professional experience working with children, young people and their families, who have experienced trauma.
- Are dedicated to applying child-safe practices and fostering a respectful, inclusive environment for children, young people, and their families

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- Are a skilled clinician with a knowledge of, and experience in, a broad range of trauma informed therapies, having worked with people who have experienced trauma
- Understanding of issues associated with sexual assault and a commitment to social justice and systems that support child safety.
- A sound understanding of relevant mandated reporting and risk response legislation
- A sound understanding of an ethical practice framework
- A National Police Check and Working with Vulnerable People Registration
- Computer literacy, including the ability to operate a Client Management System/database and the Microsoft Office Suite.

Desirable

- Relevant post-graduate qualification.
- Knowledge, skills or experience in working with children and young people who have displayed problematic or harmful sexual behaviours, as well as their families and associated supports.
- Training/experience in working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; people with disabilities; children and young people with neurodiversity, 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 Coordinator:

1. Knowledge, understanding and experience working with children, young people and/or families around sexual assault, trauma and/or harmful sexual behaviours, and understanding how this may impact on young people's lives.
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 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.
4. Demonstrated experience and willingness to work within a multidisciplinary team, as well as with external stakeholders, to meet both client and organisational needs.
5. Sound time management skills as well as demonstrated ability to work autonomously, exercise initiative and manage competing priorities.
6. Knowledge and understanding of frameworks of ethical practice; confidentiality; the requirements of mandatory reporting; and relevant state and national legislation.
7. 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
8. Ability to maintain boundaries and integrity in relationships with clients and external stakeholders.