

Sexual Assault Support Worker/Counsellor

Position:	Sexual Assault Support Worker/Counsellor
Status:	Participation - On Call Sexual Assault Response Team Roster
Hours of Work:	Temporary Part-time/Full-time negotiable
Responsible to:	76 Hours per fortnight negotiable
Salary:	Senior Counsellor/Coordinator
	Commensurate with experience under the SCHCADS Award – Level 5

Employees will be required to participate in the after-hours Sexual Assault Response Team. Employees also may be required on occasion to work outside ordinary hours.

Organisation

The North Queensland Combined Women's Services Inc (NQCWS) operates from a broad feminist perspective and is welcoming of all women. The Centre's feminist philosophy embodies an analysis of the subordinate (secondary) position of women in society with a strong commitment to personal and social change.

NQCWS is housed at The Women's Centre, and offers a Specialist Homelessness Service, the Townsville Sexual Assault Support Service and a Women's Health Service. The Women's Centre also provides crisis to medium term counselling, group work, information, support, advocacy, outreach, home visits and appropriate referrals to other service providers.

While working with women, both individually and in groups, The Women's Centre aims to promote social and political change by validating women's stories and experiences, advocating for women's rights through awareness raising, community education and social action.

Purpose

To provide a range of interventions to survivors of sexual assault and to women who wish to receive counselling, therapeutic group-work, advocacy and support.

Accountability

The worker is accountable to the NQCWS Coordinator, Senior Counsellor and through her to Management Committee, to the Staff team, and to service users.

Responsibilities

- To work towards achieving the objectives of NQCWS.
- To demonstrate an understanding and commitment to social justice and feminism and to foster an environment dedicated to the celebration and promotion of feminist principles.
- To meet the requirements of the service agreement with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

Sexual Assault Support Worker/Counsellor

- To provide leadership to the team that will facilitate and contribute to the safety and support of victims of Sexual Assault
- On a day to day basis provide direction and guidance related to counselling sexual assault survivors
- Be aware of personal safety and stress levels within self and others

Target Group

Women and young women 12 years and above whom have experienced sexual assault or abuse.

Service Provision

Service delivery will be centre-based and outreach. Community education will be at the most appropriate venue. Services will be provided in a safe and timely manner.

Duties

This employee must be the point of contact for other team members on a day to day basis to discuss cases when matters have become more complex or increased risk to an individual is identified.

- Provide support and counselling to the most complex survivors of sexual assault and their supporters.
- Develop and implement groups for sexual assault survivors and their supporters.
- Provide support and counselling (ongoing and crisis) to women for social health issues covering the priority health areas including domestic and family violence
- Liaise and work with other organisations to be more responsive to the needs of survivors of sexual assault including the police, the medical profession and appropriate services
- Provide appropriate referrals to, and advocate for women and those who support them, particularly within both the medical and legal systems.
- Participate in an on-call response to support sexual assault victims
- Contribute to the reception and daily support of the service, providing counselling, information and referral to individual women and to other service providers.
- Support other women-based services or projects as appropriate e.g. Women's Legal Service,
- Provide training to Staff and supervise tertiary level students as required
- Provide coaching and mentoring to new and less experienced staff
- Lead reviews of practice and revise and update the practice guide where appropriate

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- Provide reports or write funding or policy submissions to government as required

Administration

- In consultation with the Co-ordinator/Senior Counsellor, plan work schedules for efficient use of time and resources.
- Use current case management system
- Record and collate monthly statistics for organisational purposes
- Assist in providing case study data and statistics for the purpose of project work or reports
- Organise workload effectively to include preparation and follow up time.
- Participate in Professional Development, Staff Training and Supervision
- To participate with the Coordinator, other staff and management in Women's Centre meetings, policy formulation and the planning of future directions of the Service

Community Education - Partnerships and Collaboration

- Provide community education/training on sexual assault against women to a range of organisations and educational institutions including Police, Health and Welfare Professionals, Schools, University.
- Sexual Assault Partnership development through community and organisational engagement
- Improve pathways for victims of sexual assault by strategically working with health police, the city council, Victims Assist and others
- In conjunction with other staff, identify and facilitate social action responses which may include International Women's Day, Reclaim the Night and Sexual Violence Awareness Month
- With other Sexual Assault Support Workers, maintain active involvement and current membership of Sexual Assault Response Team and the Sexual Assault Strategic Partnership Group
- Participate in peak body networks and forums in consultation with the Senior Counsellor and/or Coordinator.

Sexual Assault Response Team

- In collaboration with agencies involved in the Townsville Sexual Assault Response Team, participate to provide 24 hour on-call crisis care services for recent victim/survivors.

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- Provision of specialist critical incident sexual assault support and information regarding victim/survivors rights and options with legal and medical issues
- Preserve the integrity of client confidentiality in accordance with the victim centred best practice model of the Townsville Sexual Assault Response Team, and share information as necessary to facilitate the collaborative partnership
- Liaison and consultation with other professionals, including, Police, Homelessness Services, Mental Health Services, Courts, Medical Services and Victim Assist Queensland
- Employees are on a roster for after-hours support to victims of sexual assault

Selection Criteria

Essential Requirements

- Tertiary qualification in Social Sciences/Social Work degree and relevant employment history and experience
- Three or more years' experience working in the Sexual Assault Support field, counselling or related areas
- Demonstrate your ability to manage complex cases.
- Please provide details of your knowledge and experience in relation to sexual assault support work.
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience incorporating a feminist analysis of sexual violence against women.
- Demonstrated abilities to provide information and referral, crisis and mid-term counselling.
- Demonstrated high levels of verbal, written and interpersonal communication skills.
- Ability to work with people from diverse cultural backgrounds, and/or access services which would assist women particularly those who are disadvantaged.
- Demonstrate your ability to lead, mentor and respond as a go to person for your colleagues.
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience in community education and training
- Current or eligible to hold Commission for Children, Young Persons and Child Guardian working with Children Blue Card
- Current valid Queensland, Open, C class driving licence