

Women's Health & Community Education Counsellor

Position:	Women's Health Counsellor
Status:	Participation - On Call Sexual Assault Response Team Roster
Hours of Work:	Full-time negotiable
Responsible to:	Hours per fortnight negotiable
Salary:	Coordinator
	Commensurate with experience under the SCHCADS Award – Level 4 or 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 that the personal experiences of women are the consequence of the patriarchal political nature of society and believe in social change for the equality of women in society.

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 support, trauma informed counselling, therapeutic group work, social inclusion activities information and referral 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 face-to-face counselling and support for social health issues and to organise and facilitate appropriate group activities including community education, advocacy and activism events covering the priority health areas.

Accountability

The worker is accountable to the NQCWS Coordinator, Senior Counsellor and Team Leader and through her to Management Committee, to the Staff team, and to women who access the service.

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.

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- Contribute to the health and well-being of women within the target group.

Target Group

Women and young women 15 years and above.

Service Provision

Service Delivery will be mostly centre-based. Community education will be at the most appropriate venue. Services will be provided in a safe, trauma informed and timely manner.

Duties

In conjunction with the Coordinator and other NQCWS workers, ensure a staffed Service to meet the needs of women and their children.

- Provide support and counselling (ongoing and crisis) women for social health issues covering the priority health areas
- Develop/ implement and maintain personal development, health and well-being and other therapeutic groups to meet the needs of women in the Townsville area.
- Facilitate other health services to provide clinics at The Women's Centre to increase access to those services
- Liaise with the appropriate health and human service organisations with and on behalf of women who access the service.
- Provide appropriate referrals to, and advocate for women, 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.

Administration

- In consultation with the Co-ordinator/Senior Counsellor/Team Leader, 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.

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- 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 relevant women's health matters as well as partner with the Sexual Assault Support Service to provide a range of education and awareness opportunities to organisations and educational institutions including Police, Health and Welfare Professionals, Schools, University.
- Improve referral pathways for women by strategically working with health and social service organisations.
- 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
- Participate in peak body networks and forums in consultation with the Senior Counsellor, Team Leader and/or Coordinator.
- Promote social justice and the equality of women within social systems and in society generally.

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.
- Provision of specialist critical incident sexual assault support and information regarding survivors' rights and options with legal and medical issues.
- Preserve the integrity of survivor 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 interagency partnership
- Liaison and consultation with other professionals, including, Police, Homelessness Services, Mental Health Services, Courts, Medical Services and Victim Assist Queensland
- Employees are required to participate in an on call roster for after-hours support to survivors of sexual assault.

Selection Criteria

Essential Requirements

- Tertiary qualification in Social Sciences/Social Work degree and relevant employment history and experience
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience incorporating a feminist analysis of violence against women.
- Demonstrated abilities to provide information and referral, crisis and ongoing counselling, with clear frameworks and theoretical knowledge.
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience in sexual assault support work.
- Demonstrated high levels of verbal, written and interpersonal communication skills.
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience in working with women from diverse cultural backgrounds, and/or access services which would assist women particularly those who are disadvantaged.
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience in working with First Nations Women.
- 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