

JOB DESCRIPTION

SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAM (QLD HEALTH)

COUNSELLOR / ADVOCATE POSITION

The Employer

The Immigrant Women's Support Service (IWSS) is a community-based organisation that works with women and children of non-English speaking backgrounds who are or have been in domestic violence and/or have experienced rape and/or sexual assault.

IWSS is a crisis and support service that provides culturally appropriate support, information, short-term counselling and referral. The service employs bilingual/bicultural workers qualified in psychology, social work and the behavioural sciences.

IWSS works from within a feminist framework which values cultural diversity and recognises the disadvantages faced by women and children of non-English speaking backgrounds that arise from the structural inequalities existing in society.

IWSS works to assist women of non-English speaking backgrounds and their children to live in safety and security and access services and facilities to make their independent survival possible.

IWSS is funded by the Commonwealth and State Governments.

The Position

This position requires a person who is qualified in psychology, social work or counselling and who is experienced in counselling women who have experienced sexual violence and who are from diverse cultural, linguistic and socio economic backgrounds and ages.

The purpose of the position is:

- To provide quality support and counselling to women of non-English speaking background who have experienced sexual assault.
- To provide a timely response to women of non-English speaking background who have contacted or been referred to the service.
- To provide up to date, clear and concise information regarding health impacts and legal issues to women of non-English speaking background who have experienced sexual violence.
- To assist in the development and facilitation of community education regarding sexual violence to non-English speaking background women in Queensland.
- To assist in the development and facilitation of training of relevant service providers to ensure a culturally appropriate response to women of non-English speaking background who have experienced sexual violence.

Work Place Structure

The worker must be able to work in accordance with the IWSS philosophy and within the structure of the organisation.

The worker shall work as a cooperative team member and is accountable to the IWSS coordinator and the management committee via the senior sexual assault worker.

Duties

1. Responsible for ensuring the timely provision of support and short-medium term counselling, in accordance with the philosophy of IWSS, to the client group.
2. Provision of up-to-date information regarding possible health issues and legal matters to the client group. (The information includes medical procedures and legal processes.)
3. Ensure the provision of support and advocacy to women who access the legal system, health and welfare services.
4. Plan, establish and facilitate support groups for the client group in consultation with the sexual assault team and other key stakeholders.
5. Maintain accurate records, including statistical data, as well as other administrative systems as required by the senior worker, coordinator and management committee and funding bodies.
6. Attend regular staff meetings, supervision sessions and other meetings as required.
7. Assist in the development and facilitation of community education and training as required.
8. Assist the agency in lobbying, law reform, and policy development through informing the senior sexual assault worker and coordinator.
9. Other tasks to assist the agency as negotiated from time to time by the senior worker and coordinator.

Selection Criteria

1. Qualification in psychology, social work or counselling. Include copies of your relevant qualifications.
2. Understanding of and professional commitment to the philosophy of the agency, and an understanding of and commitment to working within a feminist framework.
3. Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of issues relating to sexual violence, related health and legal issues and relevant services.
4. Demonstrated understanding and gendered analysis of violence for women, specifically for women from non-English speaking backgrounds.
5. Experience in the provision of short-medium term counselling with regard to sexual violence and related issues.
6. A demonstrated ability to work cross-culturally as well as knowledge of issues affecting women from non-English speaking backgrounds.
7. Demonstrated experience in conducting support groups for women.
8. Ability to conduct community education programs with non-English speaking background communities.
9. Highly developed verbal and written communication skills and an ability to communicate effectively with people from diverse backgrounds, and with both non-government and government sectors.
10. An ability to work cooperatively in a team environment and to work in accordance with the agency's accountability requirements.
11. Effective time management skills.
12. Current driver's license.

Desirable

A language other than English.