



## BARWON CENTRE AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT POSITION DESCRIPTION

<b>Title</b>	After Hours Crisis Care Practitioner
<b>Employment Type</b>	Casual
<b>Reports To</b>	Strategy & Reform Project Officer (Interim)
<b>Work Location</b>	Geelong
<b>Date of review</b>	January 2018

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### ORGANISATIONAL OVERVIEW

Established in 1978, the Barwon Centre Against Sexual Assault (Barwon CASA) is a specialist sexual assault and family violence service with office locations in Geelong and Horsham. Recently Minerva Community Services (Minerva) merged with Barwon CASA. The new organisation will operate under a new name in early 2018.

The new organisation strengthens and further enhances the services offered to clients and improves the effectiveness of both organisations in an external environment that is characterised by change and offers new opportunities as a result of the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

The Royal Commission into Family Violence made the following recommendation (recommendation 12) regarding after-hours responses:

*'Pending the establishment of the recommended Support and Safety Hubs, the Victorian Government expand funding for after-hours responses – including the capacity to activate a face-to-face crisis response when required – in each of the 17 Department of Health and Human Services regions<sup>[1]</sup>.*

Since that time Family Safety Victoria (FSV) has been working with specialist family violence agencies to review and strengthen family violence after-hours responses across Victoria. This includes development and implementation of a strengthened model which will improve coordinated family violence after-hours responses across the state, including face-to-face crisis responses where appropriate and opportunities for an enhanced model that also responds to sexual assault.

Services provided by our organisation include crisis support, case management, specialist counselling and secure housing for women and children who are experiencing or have experienced family violence; specialist counselling to adults, young people and children who have experienced sexual assault either recently or in the past and to their non-offending parents, partners, family and friends; 24-hour crisis care for victims of recent sexual assault and/or family violence, including advocacy and access to medical care and justice services.

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<sup>[1]</sup> State of Victoria, Royal Commission into Family Violence: Summary and recommendations, Parl Paper No 132 (2014–16).

Our organisation holds a strong commitment to the prevention of gender based violence and we offer support for respectful relationship programs and promote gender equality to address violence supportive attitudes and cultures. The organisation also provides early intervention services for children and young people under the age of 18 who have engaged in problematic or abusive sexualised behaviours and young people who are engaging in family violence.

Our service models are informed by feminist philosophy and we provide empowering, respectful and inclusive services and are committed to practice excellence. We offer community education and professional development and specialised training across the sector on the prevention of and response to gender based violence. This has included international learning exchanges.

Barwon CASA is an incorporated not for profit community organisation governed by a Board, with membership comprising prominent local corporate, government and academic representatives and community members. Funding is largely provided by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. We employ over 80 staff across the Barwon, West Melbourne and Wimmera Districts.

We value our staff and strive to offer a positive, flexible and respectful workplace. We encourage continuous learning, growth and development and seek to achieve excellence in outcomes and organisational objectives.

Barwon CASA is a partner in the Barwon Multi-Disciplinary Centre (MDC) based in Geelong. The Barwon MDC is a highly successful model of co-location between CASA, Victoria Police, Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT) and staff from Department of Health and Human Services, Child Protection. In this specialised model partner organisations work to support adult and child victims from first disclosure of sexual assault to investigation and criminal prosecution. Children who have experienced serious physical abuse are also supported within the MDC. MDCs provide highly specialised support and coordinated access to justice within an integrated, seamless environment.

## **VISION AND PURPOSE**

### **Vision**

Our vision is for a community free from family violence and sexual assault, and a society underpinned by the principles of gender equality, social justice and human rights.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of our organisation is to:

- Provide services underpinned by feminist philosophy that are empowering, respectful and inclusive and which address barriers to service access.
- Provide high quality sensitive and responsive services to women and children who have experienced and been impacted by family violence and to people who have experienced and been impacted by sexual assault.
- Design and implement effective evidence based prevention of violence against women and gender equality programs and initiatives.
- Contribute to the evidence base and social policy frameworks which inform effective service provision
- Contribute to the systematic and social change necessary to eliminate family violence and sexual assault.



## **POSITION REQUIREMENTS**

This position is responsible to provide a specialist crisis care after hours service for adults, young people and children experiencing sexual assault and women and children experiencing family violence. The role works on a rostered, on call basis and is required to participate in monthly team meetings, debriefing, group supervision, annual performance and development reviews and training.

### **1. Direct Service**

- 1.1 Provide crisis intervention and psychological first aid to people who have experienced recent sexual assault or family violence and to their non-offending families and friends.
- 1.2 Respond to a request for a face to face crisis response notification received during rostered on call shifts in a timely manner.
- 1.3 Conduct an assessment to ensure safety, accommodation, mental health and other immediate needs are addressed until the next business day.
- 1.4 Provide accurate information and facilitate access to medical and legal options, emergency assistance and appropriate accommodation.
- 1.5 Liaise, consult and advocate where necessary with Victoria Police, forensic medical services, nursing and medical staff, accommodation providers and other professionals as required.
- 1.6 Consult with line management for issues requiring clarification or authorisation.
- 1.7 Document case notes and record statistical information immediately after a callout.
- 1.8 Facilitate a referral to our business hours intake service and provide external referral information, as appropriate.

### **2. Organisational responsibilities**

- 2.1 Undertake required on call rostered shifts incorporating weeknights, weekends and public holidays.
- 2.2 Participate in debriefing, group supervision, monthly staff meetings and annual reviews on an after hours basis.
- 2.3 Provide support to colleagues by offering flexibility in swapping shifts and covering sick leave as necessary.
- 2.4 Provide adequate notice for periods of leave off the roster.
- 2.5 Comply with legislative, legal, professional and organisational requirements.
- 2.6 Participate in Continuous Quality Improvement and the development of best practice.
- 2.7 Other duties as required.

## **KEY SELECTION CRITERIA**

Your application must address the following:

### **3. Essential Qualifications and Experience**

- 3.1 A relevant graduate or post graduate qualification in psychology, social work, welfare or other relevant discipline.
- 3.2 A minimum one year relevant experience.

#### **4. Essential Skills and Knowledge**

- 4.1 Knowledge and understanding of the legal, medical, accommodation service options and of the safety and emotional issues pertaining to people who have experienced sexual assault and women and children who have experienced family violence.
- 4.2 A clear knowledge and understanding of trauma, as it relates to sexual assault and family violence.
- 4.3 Demonstrated experience in the provision of crisis intervention, risk assessment and safety planning frameworks.
- 4.4 Ability to demonstrate culturally sensitive and respectful practice, including understanding of the needs of diverse cultures and lifestyles.
- 4.5 Well developed observational, assessment and analytical skills coupled with strong communication (written and verbal) and interpersonal skills.
- 4.6 Demonstrated ability to advocate, liaise and practice collaboratively across complex systems and to liaise effectively with a range of key providers and stakeholders.
- 4.7 Demonstrated capacity to apply theoretical frameworks to practice.
- 4.8 Proven ability to manage competing demands working autonomously and as part of a team.
- 4.9 Demonstrated ability to maintain accurate and confidential case notes and proficiency in the use of MS Office, relevant programs / databases.

#### **5. Other**

- Commitment to the vision, philosophy, aims and objectives of Barwon CASA.
- Commitment to continuous quality improvement and cultural equity in service delivery.
- Current full Victorian Driver's Licence.

#### **6. Referees**

Applicants must provide the name and current contact details of 2-3 professional referees including the most recent or current supervisor.

#### **7. Period of Appointment**

This position is casual, dependent on the continuation of funding to the service.

#### **8. Hours of Work**

The casual hours of work will be on a rostered, on call basis afterhours (5:00pm – 8:30am weeknights and 9:00am – 9:00am weekends and public holidays).

#### **9. Salary and Conditions**

- Industrial Instrument: *Barwon CASA Enterprise Agreement 2013*, Classification: Counsellor Advocate Grade 1.
- Salary Packaging: Provided via Maxxia. PBI status with other expenses available to package above this cap.
- Superannuation: Paid in accordance with superannuation legislation and *Barwon CASA Enterprise Agreement 2013* the Default Fund is First State Super or alternate fund Hesta.

#### **10. Employee Responsibility – mandatory prior to commencement**

Employee expense:

- Valid Working with Children Check.
- National Police Records Check – renewed every 3 years of employment at employee expense.



**11. Other**

This position description is subject to review and may change in accordance with the needs of our operation, our clients and our stakeholders.