



BARWON CENTRE AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT POSITION DESCRIPTION

Title:	Counsellor Advocate
Program	Sexually Abusive Behaviours Treatment Service (SABTS)
Reports to:	Coordinator Adolescent & Men's Services
Location:	Geelong
Date:	January 2017

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 2017.

The new organisation will strengthen and further enhance the services offered to clients and improve the effectiveness of both organisations in an external environment that is characterised by change and that is likely to offer new opportunities as a result of the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

Services provided by our organisation include crisis support, case management, specialist counselling and secure housing for women and children who 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, including advocacy and access to medical care and justice services.

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 an early intervention service for children and young people under the age of 15 who have engaged in problematic or abusive sexualised behaviours.

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. There are approximately 70 staff employed by the organisation across the Barwon 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.

Our organisation provides the following services to support women and children experiencing family violence through the following programs:

- Intensive case management support and outreach services;
- Access to safe housing and short term crisis properties;
- Formal police (L17) referrals across the Barwon region;
- Specialist counselling and therapeutic services for women and children
- Adolescent Family Violence Program; in partnership with Barwon Child Youth and Families this program actively engages and supports adolescents aged 12-18 years and their families;
- Court Support in working with the police and courts to assist women to gain the protection they require through the justice system;
- Aboriginal Outreach Support services.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS

1. This position is primarily responsible to provide specialised therapeutic services to mandated and non-mandated children and young people (10 to under 18 yrs) who have engaged in sexually abusive or sexually offending behaviours, and to those involved in their care and support. The position works collaboratively with other involved services including DHHS Child Protection, Police, Family Support Services, Foster Care and Residential Support services, schools and the judicial system.

A comprehensive induction and training process is provided, and the position is supported by a team of highly skilled and qualified practitioners. The position reports to the Coordinator Adolescent and Men's Services, and receives regular clinical supervision and case direction, as well as valuable peer and organisational support.

The position is based in Geelong, Victoria and may require travel to outpost locations across the Barwon Region including the Bellarine Peninsula as well as Surf Coast and Colac Otway Shires.



2. Direct Service

- 2.1 Provide therapeutic treatment services to children and young people who have engaged in sexually abusive/offending behaviours, and to supporting family members or carers. Therapeutic treatment includes comprehensive risk and therapeutic treatment assessments, family assessments, safety planning, trauma counselling, ongoing monitoring and management of risk and safety issues, therapeutic treatment and intervention as well as relapse prevention.
- 2.2 Provide appropriate advocacy and support for people, as agreed by them within the broader service system including but not limited to; police, judicial, medical, educational, child protection, community services and family systems.
- 2.3 Provide expert advice and secondary consultation to other professionals and organisations in relation to sexually abusive/offending behaviours.
- 2.4 Maintain appropriate and up-to-date client records and statistical requirements and provide professional reports as required.
- 2.5 Assist the Barwon CASA Intake Team by providing SABTS specific Intake Appointments and secondary consultations for professionals, MDC partners and the general public.
- 2.6 Provide a triage response to SABTS clients at the point of intake, and where necessary provide support as needed to SABTS clients who are awaiting allocation.
- 2.7 In accordance with the strategic plan, assist in the delivery of community education and professional training to raise awareness of sexually abusive/offending behaviours and the work of Barwon CASA.
- 2.8 Develop and maintain networks with relevant professional groups and community based organisations.

3. Organisational responsibilities

- 3.1 Participate in staff and team meetings, clinical supervision, annual performance reviews, training and professional development.
- 3.2 Participate in continuous quality improvement and ensure services are delivered in line with the evidence base.
- 3.3 Comply with SABTS program guidelines, organisational reporting and accountability requirements.
- 3.4 Comply with relevant social and legal policy, as required.
- 3.5 Participate in other activities and meetings relevant to the role and to Barwon CASA.
- 3.6 Contribute to research and presentations, including but not limited to conferences, training and journal articles regarding sexually abusive behaviour and Barwon CASA practice

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

Your application must address the following:

1. Essential Qualifications and Experience

- 1.1 Degree or above qualification in social work, psychology, Family Therapy or similar discipline.
- 1.2 Minimum two years relevant therapeutic experience post qualification.

2. Essential Skills and Knowledge

- 2.1 Have a sound understanding of sexually abusive/offending behaviours and the factors that contribute to and maintain their occurrence, and of the impact of those behaviours on vulnerable children, family systems and the broader community.
- 2.2 Significant knowledge and expertise relevant to working therapeutically with the dynamics and effects of Sexually abusive/offending behaviours, and experience working with the impacts of interpersonal trauma on children and young people, as well as on supporting family members/carers.
- 2.3 A comprehensive understanding of the issues relating to sexually abusive/offending behaviours, sexual assault and family violence within a gendered, feminist, structural, individual, legal and medical context.
- 2.4 High level engagement skills and the ability to work effectively with both mandated and non-mandated clients.
- 2.5 Demonstrated assessment skills, including therapeutic assessment, crisis intervention, risk assessment and safety planning.
- 2.6 Ability to work collaboratively with MDC partner organisations across complex systems including but not limited to police, judicial, medical, educational, child protection, community services and family systems.
- 2.7 Demonstrated ability to work autonomously as well as to value and contribute to a positive workplace culture as an active team member.

3. Other

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

4. Referees

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

5. Period of Appointment

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

6. Hours of Work

The position is full-time or part-time.

Location of the position is at the Geelong office or at an outreach location as required;



Hours will usually be worked during business hours of 9.00 am to 5.06 pm. between Monday to Friday;

Days worked will be based on the needs of the service;

Flexibility in working hours will be required from time to time as the need arises.

7. Salary and Conditions

Industrial Instrument: *Barwon CASA Enterprise Agreement 2013*, Classification: Year 2 Level 1.

As we are client centred, the support we offer is dependent on the needs of each individual. The position holder, therefore, may be required to undertake any other duties that fall within the nature of the role and responsibilities of the position as detailed above.

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.

Probationary Period - 6 months with a review conducted during this time.

8. 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

9. Other

This position description is subject to review and may change in accordance with the needs of Barwon Centre Against Sexual Assault Inc, our operation, our clients and our stakeholders.