

Clinical Supervision of Postgraduate Psychologist Trainees Undertaking Placements in Alcohol and Other Drug Services

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The Project aims to

- Build clinical expertise among postgraduate psychologists in the detection and treatment of co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders
- Improve the capacity of NGO-AOD services to deliver training by funding the employment of clinical supervisors
- Increase the number of psychologists seeking employment in the NGO-AOD sector in future

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- Increase opportunities for NGO-AOD services staff to consult with psychologist clinical supervisors regarding comorbid mental health problems
 - Improve treatment outcomes for comorbid clients through increased education and training of psychologists and services which better address comorbidity.

Support for project

- Funding provided by the Australian Government via the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA)
- The APS will administer the project
- 31 universities have indicated a willingness to participate in the project
- Anecdotal evidence suggests there is currently a shortage of fieldwork placement opportunities in many parts of Australia.

The project will provide placement opportunities for

- Students enrolled in year 2 of a Masters program or
- Students enrolled in year 2 or 3 of a Doctorate program in

Clinical Psychology

Counselling Psychology

Neuropsychology

Forensic Psychology

Health Psychology

In 2008

- There are places for 128 students
- Selected students will be approved for placement by the relevant university placement coordinator
- Student trainees must have the capacity to attend the NGO-AOD for 2 days a week for a period of 20 weeks
- A deliberate attempt will be made to place students in available rural, remote and outer metropolitan NGO-AOD services

Each NGO-AOD site must

- Substantiate that the majority of its services are concerned with the prevention, treatment or rehabilitation of individuals with a drug and/or alcohol disorder, with a substantial proportion having mental health disorders
- Safely accommodate the student trainee on site
- Allocate adequate and appropriate day to day client workload to the student trainee

Supervisors of students in NGO-AOD units must

- Be an appropriately trained psychologist and hold appropriate state or territory registration
- Have experience and expertise in drug and alcohol/mental health interventions and be eligible for membership of the relevant APS College
- Undertake weekly on site supervision of the student
- Agree to complete all placement assessment and reporting requirements

Payments

The following payments to consultant psychologists (i.e. psychologists external to the unit) will be made in relation to the project

- Rate of \$150.00 per hour + on-costs for clinical supervision of psychology students (direct to supervisor)
- Rate of \$150.00 per hour + on-costs for clinical training of AOD staff on supervision days, on a case-by-case basis (direct to supervisor)
- Financial assistance for supervisors to attend clinical placements, including travel costs at 67 cents per kilometre, to a maximum of 300 kilometre per week, for 20 weeks in total, per supervisor-student placement in rural and remote areas (direct to supervisor)

Payments

- Payments to NGO-AOD services to enable them to support clinical supervisors, including orientation, workers compensation and other insurance costs (up to \$2,000 per student per year).

Materials to be developed

- Student placement manual
 - Requirements of the placement (University & NGO-AOD site requirements)
 - Pre-placement drug and alcohol-mental health information booklet (adult learning materials)
- Supervisor manual
 - Requirements of the University (APAC Course Accreditation & Registration Boards)
 - Requirements of the NGO-AOD unit
- NGO-AOD unit manual
 - Requirements of the University (APAC Course Accreditation & Registration Boards)