

Senior Forensic AOD Counsellor OR Forensic AOD Counsellor

Is this you?

- AOD counselling extraordinaire with a passion for mentoring and leadership?
- Ready to make an immediate impact in a values based NFP?
- Looking to work in a supportive, fun, team driven culture?

We are seeking either a Senior Forensic Counsellor or a Forensic Counsellor. Please refer to the Position Descriptions for an outline on what each of these roles look like. Based on an applicant's experience, qualifications, and interview, an offer may be made to applicants for either a Senior role or a regular role".

At ACSO, we look for people who believe in second chances, who share our values and are passionate about supporting forensic clients to re integrate back into the community. If this all sounds like you, read on!

About Us

The Australian Community Support Organisation (ACSO) is a vibrant, values driven NFP, focused on partnering with Government and the community to co-design services that create real social change. We are an organisation with a bold vision to create a safe and inclusive community where prison truly is the last resort. Our purpose is to strengthen the wellbeing of our communities by advocating for and delivering services which divert people away from the justice system.

The Australian Community Support Organisation recognises the right to a safe and inclusive service without bias. ACSO is committed to the equitable treatment of its participants, employees, and partners. We believe in humanity and celebrating the diverse voices of our community through leadership, practice, and policy design, to honour and embrace diverse traditions, cultures, and experiences of those we support and work alongside.

About the role (Senior Counsellor)

The Senior Forensic AOD Counsellor (Senior Counsellor) will be responsible for providing secondary consultation and clinical supervision to the Forensic AOD Treatment team. The Senior Counsellor will also contribute to the leadership of our Forensic AOD Treatment team by facilitating the support and supervision of students and peer workers in the team.

The Senior Counsellor will hold a small case load and support clients by gathering information through assessment, formulating findings and recommendations, utilising strong report writing skills, developing realistic treatment plans, and delivering evidence based AOD Standard and Complex Counselling. The Senior Counsellor will engage with key stakeholders (internal and external) to continue to deliver on client outcomes across the Department of Justice and Community Safety, Courts Victoria, and Department of Health.

About the role (Forensic Counsellor)

Forensic AOD Counsellors work in a range of environments and locations in Victoria, ACSO offices, Department of Justice and Community Safety sites and Magistrates' Courts. Our Forensic Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment team provides Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) treatment services to clients in contact with, or at risk of contact with the criminal justice system. The service is delivered face to face, via phone or video call.

Forensic AOD Counsellors are responsible for providing support to clients by gathering information through assessment, formulating findings and recommendations, utilising strong report writing skills, developing realistic treatment plans, and delivering evidence based AOD Standard and Complex Counselling. Forensic AOD Counsellors also regularly liaise and consult with Case Managers at the Department of Justice and Community Safety, and Courts Victoria and provide outcome feedback through client progress reports

What we are looking for (Senior Counsellor Role)

- Bachelor level qualification in a relevant health discipline such as Social Work, Counselling, Psychology, Nursing or Allied Health Sciences, OR Diploma level qualification with substantial experience of 4+ years/specialised skills attained through previous appointments/service Certificate IV, or higher qualification, in Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) or have at minimum completed the core competencies, along with equivalent relevant experience.
- 2+ years prior experience in the AOD sector, including the delivery of treatment interventions and therapeutic approaches
- Holds registration with a regulatory health practitioner body such as AHPRA
- Strong demonstrated experience providing clinical supervision and secondary consultation
- Experience in leadership and an ability to work with challenging clients and complex issues, preferably in the AOD, forensic or Mental Health fields service Strong demonstrated experience in providing evidenced-based counselling (e.g., Motivational Enhancement Therapy and Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Mindfulness-Based Relapse Prevention, Dialectical Behaviour Therapy, etc.) to clients tailored through assessment and formulation of client centred treatment planning
- A contemporary understanding and approach in working with individuals who have co-occurring mental health and alcohol and other drug issues (i.e., dual diagnosis) or other co-occurring complexities (e.g., ABI and other disabilities)
- Committed to continuous learning and professional development
- An ability to adhere to policy and procedure such as privacy, confidentiality and workplace health and safety

What we are looking for (Forensic Counsellor Role)

- Certificate IV, or higher qualification, in Alcohol and Other Drugs or have completed the core competencies, along with equivalent relevant experience.
- A relevant tertiary health qualification such as Social Work, Counselling, Psychology, Nursing or Allied Health Sciences.

- 2+ years prior experience in the AOD sector, including the delivery of treatment interventions and therapeutic approaches
- Demonstrated experience in providing evidenced-based counselling (e.g., Motivational Enhancement Therapy and Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Mindfulness-Based Relapse Prevention, Dialectical Behaviour Therapy, etc.) to clients tailored through assessment and formulation of client centred treatment planning
- A contemporary understanding of the biopsychosocial model of addiction and a sound knowledge of substances and their effects on human physiology, psychology, and offending behaviours
- A contemporary understanding and approach in working with individuals who have cooccurring mental health and alcohol and other drug issues (i.e., dual diagnosis) or other cooccurring complexities (e.g., ABI and other disabilities)
- Strong report writing skills, incident report writing and case noting abilities
- Committed to continuous learning and professional development
- An ability to adhere to policy and procedure such as privacy, confidentiality and workplace health and safety
- Eligibility to enter Victorian prisons

What ACSO can offer you

- Full-time, fixed term (10 months) position available with potential for extension.
- Senior Forensic Counsellor - \$84,848 base salary + 10.5 % superannuation + NFP salary packaging options (more after tax \$ in your pocket!)
- Forensic Counsellor - \$77,584 base salary + 10.5 % superannuation + NFP salary packaging options (more after tax \$ in your pocket!)
- Richmond location with a hybrid of working from the office and from home (if desired), in line with operational requirements
- Paid parental leave (14 weeks accessible after six months of employment)
- Annual leave loading of 17.5%
- Phone, laptop, and provisions to help set you up at home (if required)
- Benefits listed above, including
 - Learning and development opportunities
 - Wellbeing initiatives
 - Flexible working arrangements
 - Dedicated inclusion and diversity initiatives

How to apply

If you think you'd be a great fit – we'd love to hear from you!

To apply and view the position description (PD), please visit our careers website (REQN-497), and provide a copy of your resume, a brief covering letter and a document outlining responses to the selection criteria found in the PD.

Please note ACSO is committed to maintaining a working environment that is safe and minimises risk to the health and wellbeing of all employees, clients, contractors, volunteers, and representatives. ACSO's employees are required to be fully vaccinated (including third dose)

against COVID-19. All ACSO preferred candidates are required to provide proof of their vaccination status, prior to offers of employment being made.

As ACSO is an NDIS provider, the successful candidate must hold an NDIS Worker Screening Check Clearance before they commence employment in this position.

Please contact Marina Avraam, Team Leader – Forensic Treatment Services on 0457 518 661 for more information about this position.

Applications close Thursday 11 August 2022

ACSO proudly acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Australia's first peoples and pay respect to their rich culture, lores, customs and elders past and present. We strongly embrace the spirit of reconciliation and continue working towards ensuring an equal voice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, particularly those who have been touched by the justice system.

The Australian Community Support Organisation embraces diversity within its workforce and encourages applications from appropriately qualified and skilled people regardless of their background. All suitable applicants for this role will be considered regardless of age, ability, race, gender expression, sex, cultural background, spiritual beliefs or lived experience.