

DRUG TREATMENT SERVICES ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

ROLE OF THE CLINICAL DRUG ASSESSOR

It is **mandatory** for all clinicians who conduct assessments with those participating in forensic drug treatment programs to be accredited with the Department of Health, Mental Health, Wellbeing and Ageing Division.

Position description of an Accredited Assessor

A person employed by an alcohol and other drug treatment provider or any other organisation who will conduct drug assessments of forensic clients. Accredited assessors must be alcohol and other drug clinicians experienced in client assessment, have knowledge of the alcohol and other drug treatment service system and associated referral options. They have responsibility for the appropriate identification and treatment matching of clients involved in forensic drug treatment programs.

Functions:

An accredited drug assessor must:

- be fully conversant with the framework, policy procedures and protocols in which the forensic drug treatment service system operates
- be able to assess an individual's substance use using a range of clinical and screening tools, such as the specialist alcohol and drug assessment tool, mental health screening tool and ABI scale;
- possess relevant and appropriate counselling skills and experience;
- refer clients to appropriate alcohol and other drug treatment services for drug treatment as required;
- be able to provide advice to clients about appropriate referral/treatment matching;
- facilitate referrals through appropriate linkages to the Community Offenders Advice and Treatment Service (COATS) and other treatment agencies;
- be able to identify indicators which the client and drug treatment agency can follow in relation to monitoring progress of/change in patterns of substance use;
- incorporate strategies in the assessment to deal with differences in age, gender and cultural background of clients;
- provide reports as required by the specific program eg Court Reports;
- maintain all relevant documentation;
- maintain regular and appropriate contact with the client's case manager;
- contribute to the planning and evaluation of the Forensic drug treatment service system; and
- notify all relevant stakeholders as required of client attendance and referral and treatment progress/completion.

Mandatory qualifications and experience:

- possesses an appropriate tertiary qualification (minimum level of Diploma) in a health-related discipline. e.g. nursing, psychology or social work. A specific qualification within the field of substance misuse is seen as an advantage, e.g Graduate Diploma in Addiction Studies. Qualifications in fields such as criminology and welfare are not acceptable;
- has attained the minimum educational standard for working within the alcohol and drug system e.g. Certificate IV in Alcohol and Drug Work or equivalent competencies; and,
- has a minimum of 12 months, full-time, alcohol and drug work clinical experience delivering a range of treatment interventions in a credible alcohol and drug treatment agency/program
- possesses relevant and appropriate counselling skills and experience.