

DRUG TREATMENT SERVICES ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

ROLE OF CLINICAL SUPERVISOR

In order for funded agencies to provide assessment and treatment for forensic clients, agencies will need to obtain accreditation from the Department of Health. This will be available through the accreditation of a Clinical Supervisor.

It is mandatory for all drug treatment agencies, who through their service agreements must provide drug treatment services to forensic clients, to nominate a Clinical Supervisor who will be accredited with Department of Health.

Position description of the Clinical Supervisor

- A person employed by a Department of Health funded alcohol and other drug treatment provider, who is responsible for overseeing clinical standards and governance in relation to forensic clients accessing alcohol and other drug treatment.
- The Clinical Supervisor must have appropriate qualifications and experience to monitor, supervise and evaluate clinical staff providing treatment interventions to forensic clients.
- The person must have an appropriate level of authority within the organisation to undertake the roles and functions of this position.

Functions:

An appointed Clinical Supervisor must:

- be fully conversant with the framework, policy, procedures and protocols in which the forensic drug treatment service system operates;
- advise on the employment of appropriately qualified forensic drug treatment assessors and other treatment or rehabilitation staff engaged in services to forensic clients;
- be responsible for forensic drug treatment programs management, including supervision of staff engaged with forensic clients;
- make decisions regarding program termination for those clients who have missed sessions, or who have failed to attend;
- liaise with Department of Health as required for the conduct and evaluation of forensic programs, and the accreditation of clinical assessors;
- liaise with the Australian Community Support Organisation (ACSO) Community Offenders Advice and Treatment Service (COATS) regarding details of clients who complete or fail to complete programs;
- ensure that all relevant documentation is maintained for the conduct and evaluation of forensic programs and the ongoing accreditation of assessors;
- be able to assess an individual's substance use using a range of clinical tools and interpersonal skills;
- be able to provide advice to clients and staff about appropriate referral/treatment matching;
- be able to identify indicators which the client and drug treatment clinician can follow in relation to monitoring progress of/change in patterns of substance use;
- provide supervision to Forensic Drug Treatment Program assessors;
- act as a consultant on assessment issues; and
- incorporate strategies in the forensic program to deal with differences in age, gender and culture of clients.

Mandatory qualifications and experience:

- possess an appropriate tertiary qualification (minimum level of Diploma) in a health-related discipline e.g. nursing, psychology and social work. A specific qualification within the field of substance misuse is seen as an advantage. eg 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 24 months, full-time, alcohol and drug work clinical experience delivering a range of treatment interventions in a credible alcohol and drug treatment agency/program