

# Position Description

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<b>Position:</b>	<b>Volunteer Psychologist/Counsellor</b>
<b>Supervisor:</b>	Health Practise Manager and Mental Health Service Coordinator
<b>Location:</b>	Based at Footscray
<b>Time Commitment &amp; Availability:</b>	A minimum commitment of one half day shift per week or one day per fortnight for 12 months. Shifts are available on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays or Fridays between 10am – 4:30pm.

## Position Purpose

The ASRC Health Program provides mental health support for clients who may be facing ongoing challenges accessing appropriate support within community services. This role requires a psychologist and/or counsellor to support people seeking asylum, who come from backgrounds of torture, war, trauma and discrimination and who face uncertain futures, fear and insecurity.

The psychologist/counsellor will work from a holistic, strength-based, empowerment model, which is trauma informed and recovery orientated. Volunteers in this role will provide short or possibly long-term support for a small caseload of clients. Volunteers in this role will be working with clients from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds with extensive trauma histories and complex mental health conditions.

## About the Program: Health

The ASRC Health Program is a nurse-led service of seven nurses and one bicultural worker. The voluntary workforce consists of over 50 healthcare volunteers including GPs, nurses and a mental health team which currently includes mental health nurses, psychiatrists, counsellors, art therapists and trauma informed yoga instructors. The allied health care team provides physiotherapy, osteopathy, acupuncture, dietetics and podiatry. The health program offers refugee health assessments, triage and care coordination. We provide catch-up immunisations, pathology collection, diabetes management and health promotion to people seeking asylum as well as financial support for prescription medication. Clients require multidisciplinary care coordination to address their complex health care needs. The majority of the people accessing our service have no income and are on visas denying them work rights and Medicare.

## Organisational context

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) is Australia's largest independent organization providing aid, employment, health services and advocacy for people seeking asylum. Powered by over 500 volunteers and 200 staff, we create welcoming and inclusive environments. Our organisational values are **Welcoming, Authentic, Courageous** and **Collaborative**.

## Key Responsibilities

- Provide face-to-face, trauma informed, strengths based psychological support for people seeking asylum who present as clients of the Health Program.
- Assess and manage the consequences of trauma, torture and forced displacement.
- Work alongside community nurses, GPs, mental health nurses and psychiatrists to assist with informing management plans and care coordination.
- Involvement in ongoing program development, producing promotional material and information sessions for clients, staff and volunteers of the Health Program and the wider ASRC organisation.
- Prepare and provide written reports, clinical summaries and support letters when requested to assist clients with applications or processes involving external organizations (e.g., Department of Home Affairs, SRSS, legal representatives and other relevant agencies).
- Maintain records according to legislation and agency requirements.
- Undertake personal external supervision

## What We're Looking For:

### Essential:

- Commitment to the rights of people seeking asylum and ASRC values (Collaboration, Welcome, Courage, Authenticity)
- Good communication and teamwork skills
- Reliability and willingness to commit to agreed volunteer hours
- Bachelor degree in psychology with further graduate qualification in a relevant field
- Current registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHRPA)
- Minimum two years experience within a related discipline: eg social work, family therapy, drug and alcohol services, family and domestic violence
- Demonstrate ability and experience working with complex trauma and grief, utilising trauma informed therapeutic modalities
- Knowledge of clinical referral systems and support options for clients
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively with people from culturally diverse backgrounds

- An understanding of the health issues impacting the lives of people seeking asylum and a strong commitment to improving health outcomes.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently, as well as effectively as part of a team.

**Desirable:**

- Prior experience in a similar role
- Lived experience as a person seeking asylum, or from a refugee background
- Knowledge of the policy context of practice with asylum seekers visa categories/conditions, and the barriers faced by people seeking asylum in Australia

ASRC values lived experience, passion and commitment to justice and human rights for people seeking asylum over formal qualifications. You are encouraged to apply even if you do not meet every criterion.

**Compliance:**

Before commencing with ASRC you will be required to complete the following:

- Police Check
- Working with Children Check
- Volunteer Agreement
- Volunteer Training
- 3-Month Review Period