

Clinical Psychologist / Mentor

This assignment has been negotiated in good faith with the Partner Organisation, and the information contained was correct at the time of acceptance of the request. However, while we take responsibility for matters under our direct control, all assignments and arrangements are subject to change. This assignment may be amended or withdrawn to reflect changes in circumstances.

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS			
Assignment title	Clinical Psychologist / Mentor		
Partner Organisation	Ministry of Health		
Location	Iatika Complex, Port Vila, Vanuatu		
Website of Partner Organisation	https://moh.gov.vu/		
Duration of assignment	18 months	Start date	Aug/Sept 2022
Type of assignment	In person volunteering	Australian Organisation	Not applicable
Time commitment	TIME COMMITMENT - Not applicable (Remote volunteers only)		

PARTNER ORGANISATION OVERVIEW

The **mission** of the Ministry of Health is to protect and promote the health of all people in Vanuatu. In delivering health services, its **values** are efficiency, equity, quality, and integrity. It is the **vision** of the ministry to have an integrated and decentralised health system that promotes an effective, efficient, and equitable health service for the good health and general wellbeing of all people in Vanuatu.

Health care is provided through a network of aid posts, dispensaries, health centres, provincial hospitals, and a national hospital.

Vanuatu has one of the lowest ratios of health workers per head of population in the Pacific, exacerbated by significant inequalities in distribution of workforce; it is likely that only 30% of the health workforce is targeted at community health. Access to these services is further hampered by transport costs and geography. At the national government level, a lack of basic health services has been identified as a “major cause of hardship and poverty in the country.”

The Mental Health Unit falls within the Public Health Department’s Lifestyle Disease Unit at the Ministry of Health.

The key focus for the ministry in relation to mental health include.

- Seek government formalisation of the National Mental Health Committee and its provincial directorates to ensure long-term sustainability of these mental health decision-making bodies.
- Through legal mechanisms, ensure full rights realisation for people with mental illnesses.
- Increase health-specific and community mental health care capacities through continued training
- Strengthen mental health data collection and reporting mechanisms ensuring outputs are used to map trends and inform planning

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ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

Assignment overview

The Ministry of Health is expecting a new National Mental Health Co-ordinator and a Mental Health Officer who would need the support of a Clinical Psychologist as they adjust to their new roles at the National level of the Ministry of Health. But the key role for the Psychologist is to provide capacity building to the clinical team down at the Mind Care Clinic require support in providing psychological assessment and treatment to all citizens with mental health concerns. They with the right sets of skills will help the mental health team to work towards all seven of their objectives written out in the 2021-2030 Vanuatu Mental Health Policy and Strategic Plan

The national mental health team require assistance with the implementation of the COVID-19 and any other natural disaster recovery plans so this support will be able to assist them in these areas

And the assignment is also to assist with the implementation of the National Mental Health Strategic Plan (2021-2030). Included in this plan is to assist in the development and passing of the new Mental Health Act into law through the Council of Ministers and the State Law Office. The implementation of this legislation will help to protect the rights of all individuals with mental illness and improve the support that they can receive in the community too.

Assignment objectives

- 1) To assist, train and supervise clinical nurses and interns who are interested in working in the field of mental health.
- 2) 2) To assist with the implementation of the National Mental Health Policy and Strategic Plan (2021-2030) and the COVID-19 and any other natural disaster recovery plans.

To include all people directly affected by the volunteer assignment in the Partner Organisation and community, using strategies that promote gender equality; inclusion of youth; inclusion of people with a disability; child protection and safeguarding; inclusion of marginalized groups.

Duties and responsibilities of the volunteer

In consultation with their line manager and relevant stakeholders, Australian volunteers complete a work plan in the first three (3) months of their assignment. The duties below are an indication of the type of work that may be involved in meeting the Assignment Objectives:

- Assist with the running of the Mind Care Clinic at Port Vila Central Hospital, including providing supervision and guidance to nursing and medical interns and mental health nurses at Vila Central Hospital interested in furthering their clinical skills
- Assist with providing further training on mental health skills to service providers, community leaders and health professionals throughout Vanuatu who do not specialise in Mental Health.
- Assist and train the intern who is currently learning the role of National Mental Health Coordinator at the Ministry of Health.
- Help to complete, pass, and execute the new National Mental Health Act.
- Assist with developing/or maintain partnerships with local, regional, and international organisations, local and national government, professional and peer networks

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Selection criteria
Masters or Doctoral Degree in Psychology
Demonstrated experience in training of mental health issues and skills
Demonstrated experience in supervising the clinical skills of people working in mental health
Demonstrated effective communication skills across a wide range of stakeholders to advance the effectiveness of a mental health service
Demonstrated critical thinking and problem-solving skills

Desirable skills, language, and experience
Substantial experience in clinical and community awareness programs on mental health
3 years of experience post-qualification working as a psychologist

Line Manager	The National Psychiatrist
Staff Supervision	The National Mental Health Coordinator
Working relationships	Regular meetings to discuss progress, obtain suggestions and seek feedback about the work that they are doing and how it is assisting the overall Vanuatu Mental Health program.
Hours and days of work	8 am to 5 pm including 1 hour lunch break Monday to Friday for a maximum of 40 hours per week
Leave	All volunteers are entitled to 20 days leave per 12 months, unless otherwise advised. Same conditions and terms as local colleagues apply, including national holidays.
Professional indemnity insurance	This assignment is deemed to require professional indemnity insurance as there is a requirement for the volunteer to act as a medical, allied health or legal professional whilst on assignment.
(Required for all volunteers who are acting as a medical, allied health or legal professional whilst on assignment.)	The volunteer should consult the partner organisation about the need for professional indemnity insurance for the role prior to departure. Where required and/or considered essential to hold this insurance, please discuss this with the Volunteer Services Manager in Melbourne prior to departure.

LIVING AS A VOLUNTEER

The Australian Volunteers Program supports volunteers from preparing to go on assignment through to returning home. For a full breakdown of support provided, please visit: [s://www.australianvolunteers.com/volunteering/lifestyle-and-support/](https://www.australianvolunteers.com/volunteering/lifestyle-and-support/)

Living allowance	AUD \$1,910 per month The allowance levels are based on the cost of living in the host country location and are listed in \$AUD. Allowances will be reviewed periodically and may increase or decrease.
Accommodation allowance	AUD \$1,450 per month
Language support	Language support is provided during the in-country orientation period. Most often, additional resources for further development later in the assignment will be available if required.

Country profile	<p>Learn more about the host country location by reading the country profile. We encourage candidates to research the specific location of this assignment as it will be discussed and addressed with a recruitment officer during the interview process.</p> <p>https://www.australianvolunteers.com/countries/vanuatu</p>
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Political or faith-based activities	The Australian Volunteers Program supports partner organisations to achieve their development goals . It does not engage in or support any evangelical activities and is not linked to any political party. We partner with local faith-based organisations on the basis that the volunteer placement does not engage in evangelising; and participation in activities run by the volunteer is not conditional on conversion or adherence to a particular religious denomination. We also partner with advocacy organisations on the basis that volunteer activities are not in support of a political party or candidate.
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HOW TO APPLY

All applications must be submitted online through the Australian Volunteers Program website. If you have not already done so, you will need to register on our website prior to applying. For more information about how to apply, please visit:

<https://www.australianvolunteers.com/volunteering/how-it-works>

We actively support and encourage people of all backgrounds and abilities to volunteer internationally, and aim to make the program as accessible and inclusive as possible. The program has a dedicated Indigenous Programs Coordinator to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander volunteers, who can be contacted at indigenouspathways@australianvolunteers.com. Access and inclusion plans are available for volunteers with disabilities, to ensure their assignments and living and working arrangements are made more

Personal circumstances

Due to security, cultural, legal or visa restrictions associated with this location, we ask that applicants disclose:

- If they want their same-sex partner to accompany them on assignment.
- If they want their partner, to whom they are not legally married, to accompany them on assignment.
- If they want their child(ren) to accompany them on assignment.
- If they have a criminal conviction where a criminal conviction may be relevant to the inherent requirements of the assignment.

(Delete any that do not apply)

