



Australian Childhood Foundation

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position:	Senior Clinician –Therapeutic Services
Organisation:	Australian Childhood Foundation
Location:	Darwin
Hours of Work:	38 hours per week, 12 months contract (After hours in accordance with service requirements)
Accountability:	Senior Manager

About the Australian Childhood Foundation

The Australian Childhood Foundation has a strong reputation for delivering therapeutic services, professional training and secondary consultation informed by contemporary evidence and grounded in recognised theoretical frameworks, including the neurobiology of trauma, attachment and relational theory, and child development. The Foundation is strongly committed to ensuring all services are culturally safe, culturally responsive and culturally strong. These frameworks underpin the Foundation's therapeutic services and guide the way care, support and provide services.

The Foundation currently delivers a range of therapeutic services to children, young people, families and carers across Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, the ACT, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. It provides specialist trauma-based therapeutic services both directly and in partnership with non-government organisations and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

The Australian Childhood Foundation was the original auspicing body for the Victorian Offenders Treatment Association (VOTA) when it was established in 1994. In 1996, the Foundation broke new ground through the development of a practice model in Victoria for children with problem sexual behaviours, for which it received the National Crime Prevention Award in 1998. The Foundation has consistently provided consultation and training to government and non-government service providers across Australia on developing effective responses for children who engage in harmful sexual behaviour. It also played an active role in key working groups responsible for developing the Therapeutic Treatment Orders model and its core elements in Victoria. Since 2007, the Australian Childhood Foundation has delivered therapeutic services for children and young people subject to Therapeutic Treatment Orders in Victoria.

In the Northern Territory, the Department of Health has established a Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) Program to strengthen responses for children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviour. The Foundation has been funded to deliver specialist assessment and treatment for children and young people aged 8 to 17 whose harmful sexual behaviour is assessed as inappropriate and/or problematic. Services will be delivered from Alice Springs and Darwin, with outreach support to Tennant Creek and Katherine. Including

remote communities across the NT.

Within this model, the ACF play a central role in strengthening coordination across the service system, including between the three program streams, place-based community services, and responses for justice-involved young people delivered through NT Health. Reflecting the Foundation's recognised expertise in this area, it also leads a community of practice and provides clinical and cultural leadership across the program, while supporting the development and capacity of place-based services.

About the Role

This role offers an exciting opportunity for a dynamic clinician to make a lasting impact in some of Australia's most remote and culturally rich regions. You will not only provide therapeutic support but also lead innovative, community-driven solutions that transform lives. This is a chance to work in a role that combines clinical expertise with creativity, cultural collaboration, and leadership.

The Senior Clinician will engage in clinical assessment and therapeutic support with children and young people who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour and their families/caregivers.

Key Responsibilities

Program Development, Implementation and Review

- Develop, implement, and review holistic therapeutic plans for children/young people in collaboration with other service providers involved, including sexual assault services, child protection, youth justice, education, out of home care, health, drug and alcohol and mental health.
- Participate in program development, implementation, and review of ACF's therapeutic services working collaboratively to contribute to the successful development and implementation and review of the services.
- Ensure that all services offered by ACF are culturally safe.

Specialist Therapeutic Support/Advice

- Undertake trauma-informed and culturally informed assessments of harmful sexual behaviour.
- Deliver evidence-informed therapeutic interventions, including individual, family and group-based work with children, young people and their families/carers.
- Contribute to multidisciplinary assessment, case formulation and intervention planning.
- Develop, implement and review safety and crisis response plans in partnership with children, young people, families, carers and relevant stakeholders.
- Establish, convene and participate in care teams to ensure coordinated service planning, effective collaboration and clear information sharing.
- Provide consultation and therapeutic support to parents, foster carers and kinship carers to promote safety, placement stability and relational connection where appropriate.
- Provide primary and secondary consultation to professionals and other significant people involved in the care of the child or young person.
- Prepare court reports and other professional documentation as required.
- Ensure urgent and high-risk matters are responded to promptly and appropriately.
- Build and maintain respectful, honest and trusting relationships with children, young people and families engaged in the service.
- Deliver services in remote locations, including face-to-face appointments, travel and other support as required.

Advocacy, Research and Training

- Advocate for the rights of children to safety and security, influencing practice and policy.
- Contribute to research and program evaluation that shapes future service delivery.
- Develop and deliver specialist training to carers and professionals, sharing knowledge and building a skilled network of support.

Teamwork and Collaboration

- Play a key role in achieving annual program performance objectives and driving continuous improvement.
- Foster a positive organisational culture that values collaboration, learning, and innovation.
- Ensure compliance with best practice policies and relevant legislation while promoting excellence in service delivery.

Administration

- Meet documentation and reporting standards with accuracy and professionalism.
- Participate actively in program meetings, organisational workshops, and strategic discussions.
- Assist with orientation and mentoring of new team members, contributing to a strong and supportive team environment

Other duties

- Participate in and follow the requirements of the Australian Childhood Foundation Quality Management System.
- Perform other duties as required by the CEO or senior management.

MANDATORY QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND QUALITIES

- Tertiary qualification in Psychology, Social Work, Counselling, Occupational Therapy or a related discipline.
- Eligibility for relevant professional association membership.
- Demonstrated capacity to work in a culturally safe manner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Knowledge of trauma, attachment and neurobiology frameworks and theories.
- Experience delivering therapeutic interventions to children and young people who have experience trauma.
- A current Northern Territory driver's licence and Working with Children Check (Ochre Card).

PREFERRED SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES

- Postgraduate qualification or additional training in child, adolescent, and family clinical practice.
- Experience in assessment and treatment of harmful sexual behaviour.
- Ability to provide secondary consultation and advice.
- Strong communication and teamwork skills.
- Personal values consistent with the values of the organisation.

CODES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

- Abide by the policies of the Australian Childhood Foundation.
- Adhere to and promote the Foundation's Code of Conduct.

A COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

The Australian Childhood Foundation meets the requirements of a Safeguarding Children organisation. The successful applicant is required to comply with the Foundation's child protection policies and Code of Conduct at all times. The Foundation's staff will not directly or indirectly cause children and young people to be abused, harmed, or suffer any form of exploitation at all times. It is also a requirement that staff will not access or cause others to access, view, or download any form of child sexual abuse and exploitation material. Actions and behaviour by any staff member in breach of this policy and related procedures will be treated as a serious matter and may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

ORGANISATION DESCRIPTION

Australian Childhood Foundation was formed as the Victorian Society for the Prevention of child Abuse and neglect (VICSPCAN) in 1986 with its primary aim to advocate on behalf of children who have suffered abuse and neglect. It is a non-profit, non-government organisation that has made substantial achievements in the prevention of child abuse through education, advocacy, research, and specialised therapeutic services to abused children and their non-offending family members. All positions are subject to criminal records check or Working with Children Check.

Australian Childhood Foundation is committed to E.E.O principles and a smoke-free workplace. The Australian Childhood Foundation is an accredited Safeguarding Children Organisation. All employees are required to comply with its child protection policies.