

Counselling Regulations Development Mentor

Bhutan

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 This assignment may be amended or withdrawn to reflect changes in circumstances.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	Counselling Regulations Development Mentor			
Partner Organisation	Medical and Health Professionals Council, Bhutan Qualifications and Professionals Certification Authority,			
Location	Thimphu			
Website of Partner Organisation	mhpc@bqpca.gov.bt			
Total Duration of assignment	6 months	Start date	2/03/2026	
Type of assignment	In-person	Australian Organisation	N/A	
Assignment Phases (For Hybrid Assignments Only)		Volunteer Mode	Duration	Time Commitment
	Phase 1	In-Country	6 months	N/A
	Phase 2			N/A
	Phase 3			N/A
	Phase 4			N/A

PARTNER ORGANISATION OVERVIEW

The then Bhutan Medical and Health Council was subsumed under the Office of the Bhutan Qualifications and Professionals Certification Authority (BQPCA) as Medical and Health Professionals Council on 9th January 2023. The Medical and Health Professionals Council is a member of the Medical Councils Network of the WHO South-East Asia Region and International Association of Medical Regulatory Authority.

Vision:

Excellence in regulation of education, qualification and practice of medical and health professionals.

Mission

- Strengthen public health safety through effective enforcement of policies, regulations and standards.
- Enhance the competencies by setting the high standards for medical education and continuous professional development.
- Promote professionalism and good clinical practice among medical and health professionals.
- Foster public trust and confidence in the medical and health professionals.

Mandates

- License/register the Universities/Institutes/Colleges for training of medical and health professionals.
- Recognize/accredit Universities/Institutes/Colleges outside country for training of medical and health professionals.

recognize, accredit universities, institutes, colleges across country, for training of medical and health professionals.

- Review and validate curriculum for new programs.
- Register medical and health professionals who are trained within and outside the country.
- Inspect and monitor premises (universities/colleges/institutes) where medical and health professionals are trained.
- Inspect and monitor government and private healthcare centres.
- Maintain registry of all medical and health professionals and list of recognized training Institutes.
- Receive and investigate grievances related to medical and health professionals.
- Develop/frame plans, policies, regulations, standards and guidelines.
- Monitor competencies and skills of medical and health professionals.
- Liaise with international and national agencies/institutes.
- Create awareness on rules, regulations, standards and guidelines.

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ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

Assignment overview

Some of the mandates of the Counselling Section of the Medical and Health Professionals Council are to develop regulatory documents, frame plans, policies, standards and guidelines for Counselling. Additionally, they are to:

1. Design and develop regulatory strategies that are in line with the changing times.
2. Promote quality training of the counselling professionals by monitoring the quality of faculty, curricula and processes related to the training.
3. Promote respect and reputation of the counselling professionals through public awareness and code of practice.
4. Enhance effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery through effective stakeholder consultation, feedback system and capacity development.

As a regulatory body of the Country, the Council lacks adequate expertise in designing and developing regulatory documents and policies. As Australia is reputed and well advanced in regulating psychologists, psychotherapists and counselling professionals, the Partner Organisation is eager to learn and emulate international best practices. With the support of an experienced Australian Volunteer, adopting and adapting by contextualising to the needs of the country is the one of the best ways to professionalise counselling in Bhutan.

Assignment objectives

Support in development of regulatory document: Standards for Counselling education

Support in development of regulatory document: Disciplinary Proceedings for Malpractice and Negligence Regulations

Support in instituting Guidelines for Approval of Counselling Educational Institutions and Programs 2021

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 marginalised groups.

Duties and responsibilities of the volunteer

Support in conducting extensive research and desktop reviews of literature of different regulatory authorities and counselling associations.

Support in conducting stakeholder meeting/s to seek suggestion and feedback.
Support in conducting needs-based surveys with developed questionnaire, analyse the findings and contextualise with international best practices.
Visit counselling institutions and other training providers for baseline studies and understand ground realities.
Submit the draft version of developed regulatory documents to Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for feedback and approvals.

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Selection criteria
The counselling professional should have minimum of Master's degree in related field of study (counselling regulations and related)
At least 10 years of experience in counselling regulatory works.
Demonstrated experience in counselling regulations and able to develop standards, rules and regulations and guidelines of counselling.
Able to work as a team and seek support and guidance.
Able to travel to remote locations

Desirable skills, language and experience
Good command of written and spoken English.
Good communication skills and willingness to adapt.
Physically, mentally and medically fit.

Line Manager	Ms. Gaga Dukpa, Chief Program Officer, Medical and Health Professionals Council
Staff Supervision	No
Working relationships	<i>The volunteer will work closely with the main counterpart on a daily basis and will work as a team member with other program officers as and when required. ,</i>
Hours and days of work	Monday to Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm
Leave	All volunteers are entitled to 20 days leave per 12 months, unless advised otherwise. The same conditions and terms as local colleagues apply, including national holidays.
Professional indemnity insurance	No - This assignment is not deemed to require professional indemnity insurance
(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: <https://www.australianvolunteers.com/volunteering/lifestyle-and-support/>

Living allowance	AUD 749 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 660 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	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.
	https://www.australianvolunteers.com/countries/bhutan

Australian Volunteers Program

Political or faith-based activities	The Australian Volunteers Program supports partner organisations to achieve their development objectives. 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 accessible.

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.