

The following Information Sheet is for your reference only and should be used as a guide to assist with your Skills Assessment application to VETASSESS. This information is subject to change.

Please note that an assessment of the qualification involves assessment of both the qualification level and content. Qualifications are assessed according to the guidelines published by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.

The employment assessment involves determining the skill level and relevance of the tasks undertaken. Integrity checks may be conducted to verify the qualification and employment claims made in an application.

## Job Description

Drug and Alcohol Counsellors provide support and treatment for people with drug and alcohol dependency problems, develop strategies which assist them to set goals and affect and maintain change, and provide community education. May work in a call centre.

### Occupations not considered under this ANZSCO code:

Other occupations included in the ANZSCO Unit Group 2721 Counsellors:

- Careers Counsellor
- Family and Marriage Counsellor
- Rehabilitation Counsellor
- Student Counsellor
- Counsellors nec

Psychologists are advised to contact the Australian Psychological Society for assessment as a Psychologist for migration purposes.

## Requirements for Skills Assessment

This occupation requires a qualification which is assessed as comparable to the educational level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Bachelor degree or higher degree, in a field highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Applicants must also have at least one year of highly relevant, post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level completed in the last five years.

A positive assessment of both qualification and employment is required for a positive Skills Assessment Outcome.

### Qualification

AQF Bachelor degree or higher\*

Highly relevant major fields of study include:

- Counselling
- Psychotherapy

Fields of study usually deemed not highly relevant:

- Psychology
- Psychiatry
- Social Work
- Mental Health Nursing
- Special Education

\*This includes qualifications assessed at AQF Bachelor, Master and Doctoral level.

### Employment

Drug and Alcohol Counsellors provide support and treatment for people with drug and alcohol dependency problems, develop strategies which assist them to set goals and affect and maintain change, and provide community education. May work in a call centre.

### Highly relevant tasks include, but are not limited to:

- assessing client needs in relation to treatment for drug and alcohol abuse
- conducting counselling interviews with individuals, couples and family groups
- presenting alternative approaches and discussing potential for attitude and behaviour change

### Additional tasks may include:

- maintaining accurate and confidential client records
- referring clients to other practitioners and service providers where appropriate

In Australia, there are currently no legal requirements for licensing or registration for the occupation of Drug and Alcohol Counsellor. Membership of a professional body such as the [Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia](#) may be required by employers.