VETASSESS

Information sheet

Drug and Alcohol Counsellor

ANZSCO: 272112

Group A

About this document

- 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 a Skills 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.
- 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 center.

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.

Drug and Alcohol Counsellor is a VETASSESS Group A occupation

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

GROUP A	Criteria for a suitable Skills Assessment		
	Comparable Bachelor degree AQF level	With highly relevant major field of study	Relevant employment duration
1	 +	 +	
Pre-qualification methodology does not apply to Group A occupations			

Description of Pathways

The information below describes the available pathways for a Skills Assessment under**Group A**. Please note that in order to achieve a suitable Skills Assessment Outcome, a positive assessment for both qualifications and employment is required.

Pathway 1

This pathway requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Bachelor degree or higher degree and in a field highly relevant to the nominated occupation. Bachelor degree or higher degree includes AQF Master Degree or AQF Doctoral Degree. In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **one** year of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level, undertaken in the last five years,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Pathway 2

This pathway requires a qualification that has been assessed as comparable to the educational level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Bachelor Degree or higher, in a field not highly relevant but related to the nominated occupation, as listed below, and an additional qualification in the field of Counselling or Psychotherapy at AQF Graduate Diploma level only. Related fields for a Bachelor qualification include:

- Psychology / Psychological Science
- Psychiatry
- Social Work
- Mental Health / Mental Health Nursing
- Special Education
- Behavioural Science
- Criminology

Bachelor degree or higher degree includes AQF Master Degree or AQF Doctoral Degree. In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **one** year of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level, undertaken in the last five years,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Please note - To be eligible, the one year of employment must have been undertaken after the completion of qualification comparable to an AQF Bachelor Degree or higher.

Qualification

The following fields of study that can be considered on a case-by-case basis if preceding highly relevant employment:

- Clinical Psychology
- Counselling Psychology
- Social Work in Clinical / Counselling stream

Highly relevant major fields of study include:

- Counselling
- Psychotherapy

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 effect 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.