

Senior Disability Consultant

Department for Child Protection

OFFICIAL

*Nurturing happy, healthy kids so they
can grow up safe and reach their full potential.*

CLASSIFICATION:

AHP2/PO2

DIRECTORATE:

Office of Professional Practice

REPORTS TO:

Lead Disability Consultant

FTE:

1.0

ROLES REPORTING TO THIS ROLE:

Nil

ABOUT THIS ROLE:

The Senior Disability Consultant is a role within the Department for Child Protection (DCP) and is accountable to the Lead Disability Consultant for providing advice and support to Department of Child Protection (DCP) case workers in the identification of children and young people with disability and developmental delay and navigation of the National Disability Insurance Agency to support disability needs. The role is responsible for providing professional consultancy, advice and educational services to clients and staff of the Department for Child Protection (DCP) and other government and non-government organisations. The role is also responsible for contributing to policy, service development, review and evaluation to support quality service delivery and contributing to development of best practice in multidisciplinary therapeutic services within DCP.

YOU WILL BE ADDING VALUE BY:

1. Provide advice and support to DCP case workers in the identification of children and young people with disability and developmental delay and navigation of the National Disability Insurance Agency to support disability needs.
2. Provide professional support and consultancy services to DCP staff and other agencies, to achieve integrated therapeutic outcomes for DCP clients with disability and developmental delay and contribute to design and provision of staff and carer education programs and resources.
3. Establish and maintain professional networks to promote the sharing of knowledge, professional development and collaboration between agencies.
4. Establish and maintain a knowledge base regarding National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) systems and targeted professional working relationships with NDIA staff to support clients of DCP through effective negotiation and collaboration.
5. Establish and maintain a comprehensive understanding of the NDIS and DCP provider market and targeted professional working relationships with non-government organisation (NGO) staff to support clients of DCP to access high quality services.
6. Provide professional support, mentoring and training to DCP staff within and external to Disability and Development Services, and clinical supervision to students within delegations and contribute to shared knowledge amongst the team, and DCP, by promoting and disseminating new information.
7. Maintain accurate and up-to-date information in client files by documenting all assessments, interventions and outcomes for professional standards.
8. Comply with service delivery guidelines, industry and professional standards and workplace and other related legislative requirements.
9. Contribute to the ongoing development and review of policies, plans and services as well as research and evaluation in relation to children and young people with disabilities.
10. Be aware of Aboriginal cultural practices and/or differences and seek cultural consultation to promote inclusive practice.
11. Take action and provide services that are inclusive of Aboriginal people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds as well as engaging in learning about other cultures to better establish relationships and improve services.
12. Contribute to maintaining a safe and healthy work environment by taking personal accountability by identifying and reporting incidents, hazards and injuries in accordance with DCP policy & procedure, and cooperating and complying with reasonable instructions of DCP line management and WHS Officers.



Government of South Australia
Department for Child Protection

WHO YOU WILL WORK WITH:**Internal**

- Lead Disability Consultant (direct line manager)
- Chief Practitioner, Office of Professional Practice
- Manager, Regional Disability Team
- Manager, Disability and Development Program
- Executive, managers and staff in DCP
- Directorate staff

External

- Other government departments
- Children and young people with disabilities and their carers
- Non-government organisations providing support to children in alternative care

QUALIFICATIONS**Essential:**

For the AHP stream - an appropriate degree or equivalent qualification in either Social Work, Psychology, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Pathology or Developmental Education which entitles registration or membership with the relevant board or association.

For the PO stream - Appropriate degree qualification in Community Services, Social Sciences, Human Services, Health or related field.

Persons of Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, who have the appropriate background and skills but do not have the essential qualification, may apply for and be engaged/assigned to the role of Social Worker and will be entitled to apply for any Allied Health Professional roles requiring a qualification in Social Work within the Department for Child Protection (DCP).

YOUR CAPABILITIES:

- High level interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing and adapt communication style and identify strategies to improve communication effectiveness.
- Demonstrated clinical understanding of the development and therapy needs of children and youth with disability presenting with complex needs.
- Extensive experience providing specialist disability services for children and young people,
- Knowledge and experience planning, developing, implementing and evaluating individualised interventions aimed at meeting the complex needs of clients.
- Proven ability to guide, advice and develop other staff and students in disability therapeutic theory and practice.
- Ability to work with ambiguous information and draw on previous experience to develop innovative solutions to problems.
- Demonstrated knowledge and commitment to promoting and creating a safe and inclusive work environment
- Demonstrated ability to apply culturally sensitive child protection practice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and community from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.



OUR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Maintain accurate and complete records in accordance with the *State Records Act 1997* and departmental policies, procedures and practice guidance.
- Understand and follow the requirements of confidentiality within the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017*, and whole of government and DCP policies, procedures and practice guidance to facilitate appropriate standards of confidentiality and information sharing practice.
- Actively participate in performance development processes.
- Comply with reporting obligations arising from legislation, professional conduct standards including the Code of Ethics for the South Australian Public Sector, and departmental policies, procedures and practice guidance.
- Undertake mandatory training activities as specified with the DCP Mandatory Training Procedure.
- Actively contribute to Reconciliation, and to the aims and objectives of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle.
- Demonstrate a commitment to preventing gendered violence against women consistent with DCP's status as a White Ribbon Accredited Workplace.
- Actively support DCP's commitment to ensuring a workplace culture that is respectful, safe and inclusive where our employees are free from discrimination and are recognised for the individual and collective skills and perspectives that they bring by virtue of culture, race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, intersex status and other differences.
- Act at all times in accordance with the Code of Ethics for the South Australian Public Sector and legislative requirements including (but not limited to) the *Public Sector Act 2009* and *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- You must have, or gain, a current Department of Human Services working with children check prior to being employed and renew this every five years before expiry.
- You must be an Australian resident or provide evidence that you have a current work permit.
- You will need to undertake training in Child Safe Environments – Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect and other mandatory training as required.
- The incumbent will be required to achieve performance targets as negotiated and mutually agreed with the Lead Disability Consultant.
- You may be required to perform duties in other locations/divisions/units dependent upon Departmental requirements.
- Some out of hours and weekend work may be required.
- Some intra/interstate travel (including in small aircraft) may be required
- A current Australian driver's licence and a willingness to drive is essential.
- Employees may be required to provide professional/clinical supervision to Social Work students on observational placements and to work experience students.
- Will be required to undertake physical aspects of child management including lifting and carrying babies or small children.
- May be required to perform duties in other locations/divisions/units dependent upon Departmental requirements.
- The incumbent will be required to undertake Child Safe Environments – Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect and other mandatory training as required.
- Australian residency or current works permit is required (responsibility of applicant to provide evidence of a current work permit).



YOU WILL CONTRIBUTE TO



OUR VISION is for all children and young people to grow up safe, healthy, connected and feeling loved so they reach their full potential.



OUR PURPOSE: The Department for Child Protection protects, cares for and empowers children and young people at risk and in care. We do this by working together with our key partners to respond to abuse and neglect, keep children and young people safe from further harm, help them heal from trauma and reach their full potential.



Leaders in practice excellence

Staff in all parts of child protection develop and use best practice in their work to deliver improved outcomes for children, young people, carers, and families.



Closing the Gap

We commit to a transformed child protection system that makes active efforts and where Aboriginal people and communities are empowered to lead decision making about the care and wellbeing of Aboriginal children and young people.



A child protection system that meets the needs of children and young people

We commission and deliver services based on a deep understanding of the needs of children and young people in care and our aspirations for them to heal from trauma and reach their full potential.



A thriving workforce

We are future focused in our workforce strategy, supporting and valuing our staff, proactively recruiting, and establishing sustainable systems, processes and workplaces that enable us to be highly effective.



Active and collaborative partnerships

We work together with our service partners and alongside the community to improve outcomes for children, young people, carers, and families.



Working alongside carers

We respect and value carers as vital partners in keeping children and young people safe and well.



Quality services and safeguarding

We are accountable and transparent, and pursue continuous improvements to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people throughout the services we fund and provide.

CERTIFIED CORRECT JULY 2026



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Department for Child Protection