Program: Housing Support
Position Title: Counselling Student
Reports to: Coordinator
Location: East St Kilda

Organisational description

Two leading and very successful organisations in the homelessness and related sectors, HomeGround and Hanover, have merged to form a new agency, Launch Housing, with an ambitious agenda to achieve our vision of ending homelessness. Launch Housing is a strong, single, focused voice on homelessness driven by the values of Empowerment, Fresh Thinking, Agility, Leadership and Courage. We are a secular, independent provider of choice for clients and the ‘go to’ organisation on homelessness for government, media, philanthropy, private donors and the community. Clients are at the centre of everything we do and are actively and meaningfully involved in the design, delivery and evaluation of services as well as our policy development, public advocacy and fundraising. The new agency increases access for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, bringing increased scale to organisational sustainability and sector leadership and advocacy. Through partnerships, research and evidence-based approaches, we will continue the tradition of pioneering new methods and fresh ways to develop sustainable solutions to homelessness.

Role Overview

Launch Housing’s, East St. Kilda site provides support to lone women who are at risk of homelessness or are experiencing homelessness, who come varied backgrounds. East St. Kilda achieve this through providing support to women in crisis accommodation, transitional housing and rooming house.

The purpose of the Counselling student is to work under the guidance and direction of, and in consultation with the Leadership Team at Launch Housing East St Kilda and form part of the Housing Support Services Team. The Counselling Student will work alongside the Housing Support team to provide support to residents residing at East St. Kilda crisis accommodation. They will liaise and consult with other Launch Housing teams where relevant in order to provide holistic support to residents.
Learning areas

- Utilising a variety of appropriate assessment tools, including formal and informal assessments, structured interviews and the like to assess the needs of the client
- Utilising best practice guidelines to support a range of clients with a variety of needs including, but not limited to depression, anxiety, OCD, PTSD, substance abuse, trauma, domestic violence, crisis management, relationships and parenting.
- Develop and manage a counselling service through promotion, information dissemination, consultation and creating a referral pathway (please note that Launch Housing does not offer a formal counselling service).
- Providing individual counselling to clients and maintaining appropriate case notes
- Liaising with other professionals, where authorised by the client, for shared care and improved client outcomes
- Work with a multi-disciplinarian team and provide feedback and suggestions in line with the client’s case plan where clients have given authorised consent.
- Facilitating targeted groups as deemed appropriate by the Operations Coordinator. This may include assisting in groups with staff members or developing and implementing groups on a needs basis. Groups can address mental health issues, health promotion, relationships and independent living
- Attending training, Housing Support Team and Launch Housing meetings as deemed appropriate by Launch Housing Supervisor
- Adhere to policies and procedures set out by Launch Housing
- Other duties as identified by Launch Housing Supervisor

Key Selection Criteria

Mandatory

- Demonstrated ability to work independently, as well as effectively as part of a team
- Demonstrated high level oral and written communication skills
- Demonstrated reliability and punctuality
- Demonstrated knowledge of the ethical, legal and professional matters relative to their role
- Highly proficient research and evaluation skills
- Ability to work within a cross-cultural context, and across the lifespan
- Satisfactory criminal record and Working With Children’s check prior tocommencing role
- Current drivers licence
- Competence in using PC-based office applications and internet

Desirable

- An understanding of homelessness and, in particular, the needs and issues affecting clients who are at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness
- Experience working with people from diverse backgrounds
- Experience dealing with challenging behaviours and complex clients
Hours of operation

- Contact hours are negotiable
- Direct client work during business hours (9am-5pm)
- Minimum of 200 hours

Training and support

- Launch Housing Student Induction
- Site specific training
- Informal supervision provided on a regular basis at time agreed upon by student and Launch Housing Supervisor
- Clinical supervision provided by students education provider

Start Date

- Between 18th and 26th September 2017

Applications close:

Wednesday July 19th 5pm. Any applications received after this time will not be considered.

Please ensure applications are submitted to students@launchhousing.org.au.