

# COUNSELLOR PSYCHOTHERPIST

POSITION DESCRIPTION

*Clinical Psychologist (Counsellor)*  
*Clinical Psychotherapist (Counsellor)*  
*Graduate Counsellor*  
*Paediatric Counsellor*  
*Speech Therapist*

The logo for 'acua people' features the word 'acua' in a bold, dark teal font, enclosed within a white circle. This circle is part of a larger graphic of overlapping, semi-transparent circles in various shades of green and yellow. To the right of this graphic, the word 'people' is written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a bright yellow background that occupies the bottom half of the page.

**acua** people



## Acknowledgement of Country

Acua acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of our land – Australia.

Acua would like to acknowledge that our practice is being held across the traditional land of the Wurundjeri peoples of the Kulin Nation.

Acua would like to acknowledge our Indigenous leaders past, present and emerging and recognise all the shared endeavours in education, mental health and wellbeing through inter-generational narratives and stories that continue to shape our community.

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## Contents

<b>Welcome to Acua</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>A Little Bit about Acua</b>	<b>06</b>
<b>Acua People Growing our Team</b>	<b>09</b>
<b>Opportunity to join Acua</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Application Tips</b>	<b>16</b>

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*Counsellor / Psychotherapist*  
*Position Description*

*Welcome  
to Acua*

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## Welcome to Acua

The team at Acua are excited to welcome you. The following publication is designed to share with you the opportunity to join our team.

Acua is experiencing growth due to exceptional services to our clients leading to increased demand. Acua is offering qualified candidates the opportunity to join our team as a practitioner and grow your career with us over time.

This document has been prepared to assist you in your application. It has five parts;

- Welcome
- About Acua
- Acua People
- Opportunity to Join Acua
- Application Tips

Please familiarise yourself with all parts and feel free to ask questions if something is not clear.

Thank you for considering Acua as your career partner and we wish you well in your application.

Sincerely,

George Nelson  
Director

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*Counsellor / Psychotherapist*  
*Position Description*

*A  
Little Bit  
About Acua*

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# Counsellor / Psychotherapist

Position Description

## Snap Shot



Locations



Services



Staff



Clients



Commitment

**VISION**  
Acua is driven to **graduate** its clients **with acuity, joy and a healthy love of self and others.**

**MISSION**  
To practice **safety, sensitivity and honesty** in the **development of trust** between clients and counsellors leading to **open dialogue, psychological safety, humble enquiry, support, independent third-party assistance** all combine to **deliver tools, information, training, counsellors and coaches to support our clients.**

**VALUES**  
**1**  
**Confidentiality, Attentiveness, Respect and Empathy (CARE)**  
Acua is driven to **show kindness and CARE** for our clients at all times.

**2**  
**Agility and Innovation**  
Acua is committed to operating a **sustainable enterprise** embracing Agility and Innovation.

**3**  
**Diversity and Inclusion**  
Acua **champions** inclusion and **celebrates** the diversity of our staff and clientele.



Caring and Serving our Community



## A Little Bit about Acua

Acua is an Allied Health Provider located in Melbourne with clinics in Prahran, Essendon North and Epping. Our core capability is the provision of safe, honest, genuine services that transform the personal architecture of the client.

### **What does Acua mean?**

Acua is the collective noun for people who achieve cognitive, emotional, social, philosophical or creative acuity.

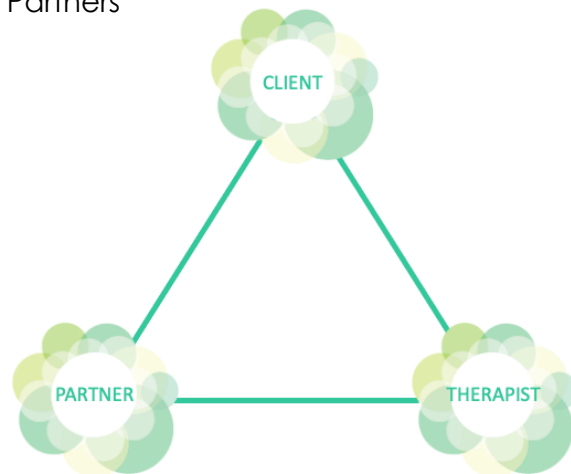
### **How do you pronounce Acua?**

Ak-YOU-Wah

### **Who is Acua?**

Acua has three primary stakeholders around which the entire enterprise is designed. Stakeholder include:

- o Clients
- o Counsellors, OT's, Paediatricians, Psychologists - Therapists
- o Program Partners



At Acua we aim to make our services engaging, powerful and transformational for any client with the view to becoming obsolete over time referred to as 'graduating' the client.







## **Counsellor / Psychotherapist**

### *Position Description*

#### **Availability**

As an Acua team member you may need to attend any Acua Location, Client location (including schools, kindergartens or other) as well as remote digital tele-health consultations.

There is also administration and meetings that you will be required to attend to moderate client services and maintain our commitment to quality.

#### **Feedback is our Fuel**

At any time we welcome ideas, feedback and collaboration to provide the best possible combination of solutions to support Acua, its team and its clients.

#### **Compliance**

Acua is covered by the Professional Association Code of Ethics and Practice. As a NDIS registered provider Acua is also bound by the NDIS Practice Standards and Quality Indicators.

All Acua team members must have a Working with Children Check Card, complete Acua induction, NDIS training / observations, hold First Aid certification, suitable qualification, professional association membership and comply with any Acua regulator registration.

Generally Team members will receive training, support and the opportunity to extend your practice with certification in Speech Therapy, Cognitive Development Therapy, Paediatric Therapy, Family Therapy and more. Certification is a commitment to our clients to uphold a high standard of service in our practice.





*Counsellor / Psychotherapist*  
*Position Description*

*Acua People*  
*Growing our Team*

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## Acua People Growing our Team

Acua is committed to the principles of positive innovation in leadership and a work culture that is enjoyable and productive.

Acua Counselling Practitioners must have a suitable qualification and be registered with an approved association, have their own transport, public liability and professional indemnity insurance. Acua team members with an education, allied health or counselling background are highly desired.

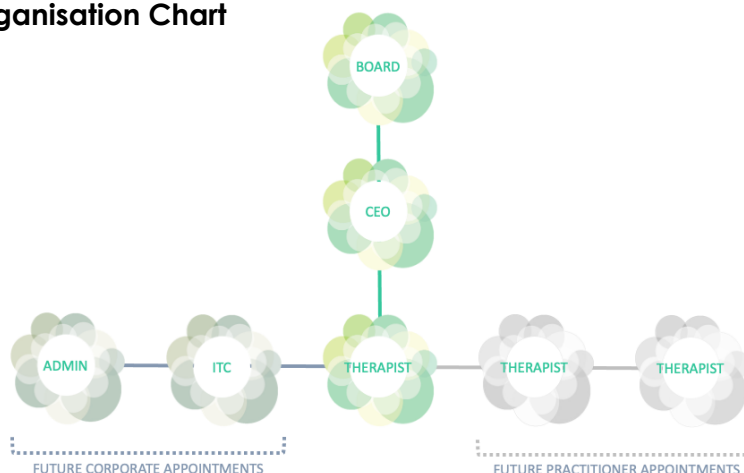
Acua celebrates inclusion and diversity.

New Acua team members will be mentored and required to participate in moderation, research and produce reflective reports on practice during their first two years with Acua.

There may also be an opportunity for you to grow to a level of seniority and take advantage of a possible partnership model in the future leading to more clinics in more locations. Acua aims to promote its team members to 'partner' and support them to operate with other partners or open their own clinic in time. However we understand that this may not be of interest or available to all staff. Some team members may just want to keep life simple and dedicate their career to their practice. Acua supports team members with training, retreats and more.

Acua team members are part of the Acua brand and will be required to maintain professional conduct in line with the ACA Code of ethics and practice and Acua policies. Acua team members are also expected to maintain professional and courteous presentation and conduct in their experience with all clients, partners, stakeholders or prospective clients.

### Organisation Chart



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*Counsellor / Psychotherapist*  
*Position Description*

*Opportunity  
to join  
Acua*

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## ***Counsellor / Psychotherapist*** *Position Description*

### What is your Superpower?

Is it a caring heart, a gently smile that makes someone feel safe, inspiring those around you or an attentive ear that makes someone feel heard? At Acua we are looking for the silent superheros in our community that are driven with purpose to protect and fight for the most vulnerable in our community.

Work with a purpose. Transform lives. Call for accountability, recognition and rights of each human being to be treated with dignity. There is an opportunity to contribute to a wonderful team, who together present as a powerful force in our community.

The work is rewarding. Our culture is to care, support and celebrate each other as well. You can access a flexible work environment, professional development, EAP and a lifestyle balance while working at Acua.





## Opportunity to Join Acua

### **Position Description**

**Role(s):**

Location: Melbourne (various locations)

Mode: In clinic, at location and hybrid

Salary: \$40 - \$90 per hour

Hours: Contract - from 6 hours per week to 24 hour per week.

Graduates are welcome to apply or express their interest.

### **Purpose of the position**

We are seeking a three dedicated and compassionate Counsellors who will offer talking therapy, play therapy and evaluation to help people deal with emotional, behavioural, social or cognitive issues or difficulties. They work face-to-face with individual clients, couples or small groups.

Acua is particularly interested in hearing from suitably qualified candidates who wish to work with Children. Our Paediatric services are in string need of passionate and caring practitioners.

### **Values**

All Team members will be evaluated against their ability to demonstrate and live the Acua values in their performance. You can read the values above under the section titled: A Little Bit about Acua.

### **Responsibilities and duties**

#### **Key Responsibilities**

The Counsellors will:

- Provides counseling, therapy, and/or psychotherapy to clients and families as appropriate to the position; prepares treatment plans, discharge plans, and follow-up care programs; provides therapeutic crisis intervention and emergency services as required.
- Provide Pediatric Services to children.
- Collects data about patients through interview, case history, psychological tests, and/or observational techniques; evaluates data to identify causes of problems and to determine proper therapeutic approach or referral to other specialists.
- Provides casework management of a specialised caseload, as appropriate to the requirements of the individual position; performs research and case assessments; prepares individualised studies for admission, placement, and/or discharge, as applicable.
- Provides and/or arranges for therapeutic interventions as appropriate for patients or clients in a crisis condition.



- Follows up to determine reliability and validity of treatment used; makes recommendations regarding modification to services and service delivery.
- Consults with other legal and treatment agencies and individuals in relation to patient/client records, rights, and responsibilities.
- Consults with other therapists and related professionals and staff, as appropriate, in the performance of therapeutic and/or casework; refers clients to appropriate service agencies as required.
- Participates in the review of clinical issues and program policies and procedures.
- Participates in, leads, and/or coordinates training sessions and workshops to enhance treatment skills.
- Travel to and from sites for client sessions.
- Conducts risk assessments on practice environments and report on any risk.
- May lead staff in performance of clinical duties.
- Performs miscellaneous job-related duties as assigned.

### Required Knowledge, Skill, Practice and Credentials

All Acua practitioners are qualified in a combination of Counselling and Education. Please be sure that you hold at least one of the following;

#### Counselling

Bachelor or Masters of Counselling (Social Work, Guidance, Mental Health, Psychology or related field)

#### Hours of Practice

For Clinical Practitioners evidence of 500 hours of practice and minimum 2 years post-graduation and 50 hours of supervision

For Graduate Counsellors minimum six months of directly related experience which may include internship and/or practicum.

#### Education

Bachelor or Masters of Education.

#### Hours of Practice

For Clinical Practitioners evidence of 500 hours of practice and minimum 2 years post-graduation and 50 hours of supervision

For Graduate Counsellors minimum six months of directly related experience which may include internship and/or practicum.

As part of ongoing practice you may be required to advance your professional development in the field that you do not have a qualification in. For example if you have a Masters of Counselling you may be required to complete Certificate IV or Diploma in Training and Assessment, Education Support or the like, to complement your existing credentials. Team members must also have a current





certificate in First Aid, working with children check and NDIS induction certificate.

### **Personal qualities and behavioural traits**

In considering your application with Acua please be sure that you meet the following:

- Understanding of allied health practice that includes neurodiverse frameworks, gender diversity, cultural competency, counselling theory and practice.
- Excellent and proven written and verbal communication skills.
- Attention to detail.
- Ability to meet strict deadlines.
- Ability to apply mental health counselling methods and techniques.
- Knowledge of community mental health resources.
- Knowledge of crisis intervention techniques.
- Knowledge of clinical operations and procedures.
- Knowledge of case management.
- Knowledge and understanding of clinical counselling principles, programs and methodology.
- Interviewing and psychological/developmental evaluation skills.
- Knowledge and understanding of clinical social work and mental health counselling principles, methods, procedures, and standards.
- Ability to evaluate the progress of therapeutic programs and to make individual modifications.
- Ability to maintain emotional stability to cope with human suffering, emergencies, and other stresses.
- Knowledge of psychological test administration, scoring, and interpretation.
- Knowledge of legal and ethical issues related to patients' rights.
- Knowledge of NDIS.
- Ability to develop and present educational programs and/or workshops

### **Compliance & Regulation**

The candidate must have:

- A qualification at Degree or Masters level in Counselling.
- Membership with ACA, APS, APRAH, PACFA, SPA or relevant national peak body.
- Australian Federal Criminal Check.
- ABN.
- Public and Professional Indemnity for minimum \$20million.
- Transportation to various Acua sites of operation.
- Secure Computing or Mobile device that will maintain client and operational privacy and security including internet access.
- Current First Aid Certificate.
- Knowledge of relevant laws applicable to this profession.

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### **Meritorious Selection**



The following criteria will be used to evaluate your application. Please make sure your application clearly details a 1 – 2 paragraph(s) to explain how you have demonstrated the following criteria in your career (in counselling or education or other). We recommend you use the STARR model (see: 'Application Tips' below). You can group criteria together if you have a demonstrated example that covers multiple criteria below.

#### Essential Criteria (must have):

1. Ability to Counsel Adults.
2. Ability to Counsel Couples.
3. Ability to Counsel Families.
4. Ability to Counsel Adolescents and Young Adults.
5. Ability to Counsel Children (aged 3 and up).
6. Competent IT skills.
7. Operate Counselling and Serviceability in an Ethical manner.
8. Qualification in Counselling, Psychology or Social Work.
9. Membership to professional association (APA, ACA, or other).

#### Desirable Criteria (If you have any of these please detail a response):

10. Career Coach.
11. Qualification in Education.
12. First Aid Currency.
13. Knowledge of NDIS and neurodiverse practice.
14. Behaviour Management of Children.
15. Promoting Counselling Services to clients and external stakeholders.
16. Handling Complaints and Feedback.

#### Hours of work

This position requires an average of 30 hours of client service per week minimum plus 10 hours of administration. However, from time to time you may be required to work reasonable additional hours, as necessary to fulfil the requirements of the position or as requested by the Principal Partner. This may include working outside business hours, during weekends and/or on public holidays.

#### Performance review

The Counsellor will participate in a performance review process within the first three to six months and then on an annual basis.

#### Submission of Application

Please forward your application with the following via email to:

'Admin@Acua.com.au'

1. Your most recent Resume and a cover letter
2. Your Response to the 'Essential and Desirable Criteria' above.
3. A copy of your qualification and current First Aid certificate
4. A copy of your Criminal Check that is no more than 60 days old.  
(if you do not have this please note that your application may progress however will be subject to the review of this document).
5. A copy of your peak body professional membership.
6. Two professional references. One must be a supervisor.



*Counsellor / Psychotherapist*  
*Position Description*

# *Application tips*

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## Application Tips

The following has been included to give each candidate the best opportunity to promote their suitability.

1. Make sure your **resume** is up to date.
2. Your **letter** should introduce you professionally and communicate why you would be a good fit for this role and your career ambition.
3. Your **Enterprise documentation** should be saved as one document (ABN, Insurance, etc.).
4. Ensure your **Qualification** also includes your units/subject/courses completed.
5. Check your grammar and spelling.
6. Be Authentic, be you.
7. Attempt all **Essential Criteria** and as many **Desirable Criteria** as possible using the STARR model
8. **STARR Model;**  
This model is an articulate way to communicate your demonstrated suitability in a concise easy to ready format.

**S** stand for **Situation**  
**T** stands for the **Task**  
**A** stands for **Actions**  
**R** stands for the **Results**  
**R** stands for **Reflections**





## How it works

First choose an example of a time you worked with a client, on a project or in role that will demonstrate your ability to meet the criteria. We call this a case study. The following is an unrelated example. (Do not copy this into your application). Here is how you will write the case study in a few paragraphs.

### Situation

For this section use one sentence to explain your role, the organisation and the critical information (time, year, location, etc) of the case study.

For example:

*As a graduate counsellor for Relationships Australis in 2016 in Canberra, I was invited to observe a family therapy session.*

### Task

For this section use one to two sentences to explain the task you were given to do, (make sure it reflects the criteria).

For example:

*The family therapy session was conducted by my supervisor, Clinical Counsellor Ms. Jones, who was conducting an intake (first session) of a single mother and her daughter who were victims of domestic violence.*

### Actions

For this section use two to five sentence or dot points to explain 'WHAT' you did and 'HOW' you did it.

For Example:

*During the intake Ms. Jones conducted the Relationships Australis welcome script which includes the organisations policy on privacy, ethics, obligatory reporting and consent.*

*I had a copy of the checklist, form and script that Ms. Jones was completing and I could follow it. This gave me confidence for my next session where I would conduct the intake script and checklist and then handover to Ms. Jones to conduct the session. I now have confidence in conducting not only intake but ongoing administrative functions of counselling for any enterprise.*

### Results

For this section explain what the outcomes were for the case study you just spoke of. Speak to the successful outcomes that promote your suitability for the role.

For example:

*The intake session was easy to follow administratively however the subject matter was difficult to hear. Relationships Australis has forms,*



## Counsellor / Psychotherapist

### Position Description

*guides and checklist to be used in any intake and so the outcome was very successful.*

#### **Reflections**

For this section explain what you learnt from the case study. If there were some failures or things did not go as you planned then this is the perfect time to share what you learned. Employers want to see that you as the candidate can be honest about any challenges and that you use any challenges to grow your capability.

For Example

*In this case study I found it difficult as a recent graduate to listen to the nature of the clients concerns. Although administratively it was successful I can now reflect that I have growth in my resilience especially in vicarious trauma as I experienced it in this case study.*







## Counsellor / Psychotherapist

### Position Description

## STARR Model Response

This is what it will read like once it is all put together.

*As a graduate counsellor for Relationships Australis in 2016 in Canberra, I was invited to observe a family therapy session. The family therapy session was conducted by my supervisor, Clinical Counsellor Ms. Jones, who was conducting an intake (first session) of a single mother and her daughter who were victims of domestic violence. During the intake Ms. Jones conducted the Relationships Australis 'welcome script' which includes the organisations policy on privacy, ethics, obligatory reporting and consent.*

*I had a copy of the checklist, form and script that Ms. Jones was completing and I could follow it. This gave me confidence for my next session where I would conduct the intake script and checklist and then handover to Ms. Jones to conduct the session. I now have confidence in conducting not only intake but ongoing administrative functions of counselling for any enterprise.*

*The intake session was easy to follow administratively however the subject matter was difficult to hear. Relationships Australis has forms, guides and checklist to be used in any intake and so the outcome was very successful.*

*In this case study I found it difficult as a recent graduate to listen to the nature of the clients concerns. Although administratively it was successful I can now reflect that I have growth in my resilience especially in vicarious trauma as I experienced it in this case study.*

### **Good Luck**

The work we do is incredibly important to our society and to our clients. Acua congratulates you on your chosen profession in wellbeing and mental health. From the entire team at Acua we wish you good luck in your application, career and we looking forward to meeting you.





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