



**Australian Government**

**Assessment Requirements for CHCFCS003  
Provide counselling to children and young  
people**

**Release: 1**

# Assessment Requirements for CHCFCS003 Provide counselling to children and young people

## Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	<p>This version was released in <i>CHC Community Services Training Package release 3.0</i> and meets the requirements of the 2012 Standards for Training Packages.</p> <p>Significant changes to the elements and performance criteria. New evidence requirements for assessment including volume and frequency requirements. Significant change to knowledge evidence. Minimum work hours added.</p> <p>Supersedes CHCFCS804B</p>

## Performance Evidence

The candidate must show evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage tasks and manage contingencies in the context of the job role. There must be evidence that the candidate has:

- performed the activities outlined in the performance criteria of this unit during a period of at least 50 hours of client work in a family counselling service
- provided counselling to children and young people, including those:
  - of different ages
  - from diverse backgrounds
  - experiencing high levels of familial and parental conflict
- used specialised counselling communication skills and age-appropriate communication to establish relationships with children and young people
- produced accurate and comprehensive case records, files and reports.

## Knowledge Evidence

The candidate must be able to demonstrate essential knowledge required to effectively complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage tasks and manage contingencies in the context of the work role. This includes knowledge of:

- legal and ethical considerations for counselling of children, and how these are applied in organisations and individual practice:
  - children in the workplace and child-focused practice
  - codes of conduct

- discrimination
- duty of care
- practitioner client boundaries and implications of unequal balance of power
- privacy, confidentiality and disclosure, including:
  - potential limitations and issues surrounding who is the client
  - managing disclosures
- records management
- specific legislative frameworks that apply to working with children, including:
  - child protection
  - work role boundaries – responsibilities and limitations, including situations where usefulness of counselling may be limited and referral is required
  - work health and safety
- stages of child development and their relevance to child and young person counselling
- attachment and family systems theories and how these are applied to working with vulnerable and traumatised children
- concepts of couple, family and child dynamics in normal and abnormal developmental forms
- impacts of separation and divorce on parents and children and other family members
- impacts of conflict, particularly high level and/or ongoing conflict, on children, and the use of child-focused approaches to intervene and minimise the impacts
- indicators and dynamics of domestic and family violence and complexities of interpersonal interactions, including power, abuse and conflict in family and sibling relationships
- common concerns in child and young person counselling processes
- factors relevant to the context of children and young people in counselling, including:
  - current or previous parental separation
  - family court and/or relationship history
  - children’s behaviour and developmental level
  - other factors that may indicate a history of violence
  - feelings of depression, anger, low self-esteem, suicidal thoughts, emotional distress or sleep disturbances
  - presenting issues including assessment with parents/care givers
- ways to create a child-friendly environment, including physical resources that support practice
- child-focused counselling approaches, when and how these are used, including:
  - use of play therapy
  - storytelling
- strengths, limitations and contraindications of specific therapeutic theories and models, including risk of harm associated with approaches that incorporate assumptions of family dysfunction and application of adult techniques to children and young people
- considerations for the counselling process when working with diverse children and young people, including factors relating to:

- age and stage of development
- culture
- ethnicity
- gender
- sexual orientation
- spirituality
- communication and counselling techniques used with children and young people
- processes and tools for abuse screening and safety planning
- counselling and case work processes, including those related to:
  - contracting and what needs to be agreed
  - documentation
  - interactions with other professionals and service providers
  - interactions with the child/young person, their family, significant others and carers
- type and scope of referral options and pathways to support clients seeking interventions and supports beyond or in conjunction with counselling
- own prejudices and stereotyping attitudes and their potential influence on counselling practice.

## Assessment Conditions

Skills must have been demonstrated in the workplace with the addition of simulations and scenarios where the full range of contexts and situations have not been provided in the workplace. The following conditions must be met for this unit:

- use of suitable facilities, equipment and resources, including:
  - client information
  - private consultation / interview space
- modelling of industry operating conditions, including:
  - scenarios that involve complex interactions with children and young people.

Assessors must satisfy the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015/AQTF mandatory competency requirements for assessors.

## Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=5e0c25cc-3d9d-4b43-80d3-bd22cc4f1e53>