



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for CHCFCS002 Provide relationship counselling

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	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. 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. Supersedes CHCFCS802B

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
- used specialised counselling communication skills
- 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 relationship counselling, and how these are applied in organisations and individual practice:
 - codes of conduct
 - discrimination
 - duty of care
 - ethical dilemmas in practice, and processes for ethical decision-making
 - practitioner client boundaries and implications of unequal balance of power
 - privacy, confidentiality and disclosure, including limitations
 - records management

- work role boundaries – responsibilities and limitations, including situations where usefulness of counselling may be limited and referral is required
- work health and safety, including:
 - stress management
 - supervision requirements
- common presenting issues, and their characteristics and counselling challenges, including:
 - pre and post separation issues
 - parenting and agreements
 - sexual relationship issues
 - fertility and/or pregnancy issues
 - financial issues
 - intimacy issues
 - grief and loss experienced one or both parties
 - family of origin influences
 - specific issues for same sex couples
 - cross cultural issues
- processes, systems and requirements for contracting and reaching agreements with client about the nature, process and expected timeframes and responsibilities for counsellor and client
- historical development of counselling theories and practice approaches, and their similarities and differences
- contemporary research, scientific and professional information and approaches to counselling in diverse cultural contexts
- broader contexts that impact family and relationship research and implications for practice
- approaches used in couple counselling, their strengths, limitations and contraindications, including, including the principles and practices of major theories
- ways to engage people in the counselling process, including:
 - conversation – non problem-focused
 - discussion of self as counsellor in professional manner
 - respectful and non-judgemental attitude
 - even distribution of time between individuals in couple
 - open questioning in a non threatening manner
 - use of empathy and rapport building techniques
- types of questioning used in relationship counselling, including:
 - questioning to scan relationship web
 - reflexive questioning
 - relational questioning
 - circular questioning
- issues impacting different types of couples, including:
 - heterosexual couples
 - same sex couples

- couples of different ages/stages of development
- family and domestic violence considerations, including:
 - indicators and dynamics of domestic and family violence and complexities of interpersonal interactions, e.g. power, abuse and conflict
 - procedures and instruments to screen for abuse before, during and after couple or family counselling and any additional safety planning requirements and procedures for clients and staff
- concepts of couple, family and child dynamics in normal and abnormal developmental forms
- stages of human development and how this knowledge applies to relationship counselling practice
- characteristics of diversity, and how these impact on attitudes to, and values within, relationships, including:
 - age
 - cognitive ability
 - culture
 - ethnicity
 - gender
 - socio-economic status
 - spirituality
- the role of social context in the counselling relationship
- 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 client, 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
- modelling of industry operating conditions, including:
 - scenarios that involve complex interactions with real clients.

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>