

NSW Department of Community Services

Psychologist/clinical psychologist

WHO WILL I BE WORKING FOR?

The NSW Department of Community Services (DoCS) promotes the safety and wellbeing of children and young people and works to build stronger families and communities across a continuum of care. We provide child protection services, parenting support and early intervention, foster care, adoption services and help for communities affected by disaster through more than 85 Community Services Centres across NSW.

There are currently over 40 DoCS psychologists who play a vital role in shaping and supporting new approaches to child and family support services in NSW.

WHAT TYPE OF WORK WILL I BE DOING?

Psychologists provide consultation to caseworkers, managers and other specialists on complex cases. Most referrals are about a range of issues possibly impacting children and young people such as risk of harm due to abuse or neglect, adjustment to a placement, visitation, domestic violence, developmental delays, learning difficulties, alcohol and drug misuse or mental illness. Psychologists may also provide ongoing consultation to carers on issues such as managing the behaviour of children or young people in their care and trying to understand the reasons for it.

Psychologists conduct assessments through clinical interviews, psychometric testing and clinical observations, resulting in a report that assists in making an informed decision on how to address the identified issues of concern.

They also provide counselling and therapeutic interventions to assist children and young people adjust emotionally and physically to their environment in order to improve their general wellbeing.

Psychologists also provide training to caseworkers and foster parents.

WHERE WILL I BE WORKING?

You will work closely with caseworkers in over 85 Community Services Centres across NSW, combining office and home consultations, and where necessary, appearing in court.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED?

The minimum qualification is a four year Honours degree or equivalent approved by the NSW Psychologists Registration Board.

A post graduate degree in clinical psychology or an equivalent would further assist in working with DoCS clients.

While many of DoCS' new psychologists are recent university graduates, the nature of the work means that maturity and life experience (combined with a relevant degree) are also highly valued.

WHAT ARE THE EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS?

Employment as a psychologist offers a variety of career prospects, training opportunities and excellent conditions including:

- graduate salary ranges from \$45,384 - \$64,182* with salary package up to \$70,825. For those with a post graduate qualification in clinical psychology or equivalent, salary ranges from \$61,115 - \$76,142* with salary package up to \$84,023
- four weeks annual leave
- fifteen days paid sick leave per year
- flexible working hours – 140 hours per month, which is an average of seven hours per day.

***NOTE: The salary range for this position will increase by 4% on 1 July 2007 to cover the period until 30 June 2008.**

WILL I GET ON-THE-JOB TRAINING?

DoCS' psychologists are provided with supervision depending on their needs and skill development.

Intern psychologists are also provided supervision to meet the requirements of registration with the NSW Psychologists' Registration Board.

DoCS provides study assistance in the form of financial and study leave and you are encouraged to undertake further training that will enhance your knowledge, skills and career.

HOW DO I APPLY?

DoCS regularly advertises for staff in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and on www.jobs.nsw.gov.au (look under "C" for Community Services).

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

For more information about DoCS and career opportunities please visit our website www.community.nsw.gov.au

People from culturally and linguistically diverse and Aboriginal backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

"Often children have experienced traumatic events and these will be borne out in different ways through their behaviour. It's great when you can see that as a result of what you do a child's needs have been met and an improvement – no matter how small – is evident"

Steve Kotoros,
DoCS psychologist, Ingleburn