



empowering
independent
education

Student Services Consultant: School Counsellor/Psychologist

**(focused on the provision of professional learning and
supporting schools with student planning)**

The Association of Independent Schools of NSW (AISNSW) is the peak body supporting and representing independent schools in NSW and providing a range of services across the state. With the core values of integrity, professionalism, respect and collegiality, AISNSW seeks to further the ideals of independent education: choice, diversity, quality, opportunity and excellence.

AISNSW Consultants operate in a team-oriented environment. They work across a diverse range of schools of varying sizes, each with its own ethos and educational philosophies. We are currently seeking a counsellor or psychologist to join our dynamic Student Services team. The successful applicant will have appropriate qualifications in psychology /mental health /social work as well as recent school-based experience.

The Student Services team consists of specialist consultants with expertise in supporting students with disability or additional needs as well as assisting schools with effective literacy and numeracy instruction.

The team collaborates with AISNSW member schools to assist in addressing the individual needs of students who may require additional planning, support and adjustments. Needs may be related to, academic, behavioural, social or emotional development, mental health difficulties, school refusal, gender identity or gender expression, or a combination of the above.

The successful applicant will have a sound understanding of evidence-based approaches to support the mental health needs of school aged students, as they will be responsible for developing and leading school-based professional learning in this critical area. The position will also respond to individual student matters that may arise, supporting schools to minimise impact, and plan appropriately in a timely manner. Supporting schools with the facilitation of meetings relating to school attendance matters is a further component to the role.

We look for enthusiastic, dedicated and adaptable staff who demonstrate initiative and professional behaviour and support the purpose and values of the organisation. The appointee will be an exceptional communicator and have outstanding presentation and facilitation skills.

We expect our Consultants to be lifelong learners with a commitment to strengthening education especially within the independent sector. AISNSW Consultants are encouraged to actively expand and enhance their own expertise through participation in ongoing professional learning that develops and supports career development into the future.

Position description

The duties of a Student Services Consultant: School Counsellor / Psychologist at AISNSW may include:

- ▶ Planning and delivering effective professional learning programs, both face-to-face and online for staff in independent schools as well as developing appropriate resources.
- ▶ Providing responsive support to schools about student issues to minimise impact and assist the school to plan appropriately and in a timely manner. This includes supporting schools to undertake risk assessments and develop safety plans/individual plans for vulnerable students.
- ▶ Responding to a diverse and varied range of specific school and student issues related to mental health challenges and difficulties.
- ▶ Facilitation of all attendance meetings including Compulsory Attendance Conferences for which appropriate training will be provided.
- ▶ Representing AISNSW and the independent school sector on committees and in a variety of forums.
- ▶ Liaising with other education sectors and agencies.
- ▶ Other duties as required by the Chief Executive.

Personal attributes

To be successful in this position, applicants will need to have:

- ▶ Appropriate qualifications in psychology / mental health or other relevant areas such as social work. Be a registered or provisionally registered psychologist, or eligible for registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) or a relevant regulatory body).
- ▶ Experience as a skilled counsellor / psychologist. School-based experience is desirable.
- ▶ Knowledge of relevant disability legislation and schools' obligations to comply.
- ▶ Recent demonstrated understanding and application of universal school wide evidence-based systems supporting the mental health needs of school aged students.
- ▶ Highly developed organisational skills and the ability to manage multiple tasks simultaneously while maintaining quality and meeting timeframes.
- ▶ Ability to work both collaboratively and independently within a dynamic team across different programs.
- ▶ Well-developed interpersonal, oral and written communication skills.
- ▶ Ability to design, coordinate and implement effective school-based and online professional learning programs as well as associated resources.
- ▶ Commitment to maintaining confidentiality and dealing respectfully with sensitive information.
- ▶ Understanding of the educational and legislative context of independent schools.

General conditions of the role

Hours of Work: The role is full-time, however consideration will be given to part-time. Flexible work arrangements are available that include a combination of working away from the office, as well as dedicated time for collaboration with colleagues in the office. Access to these arrangements is considered within prioritising visits to schools.

Annual Leave: Four weeks annual leave is provided.

Professional Learning: A meeting for all staff is held once per term that is tailored to be informative, practical and collaborative in nature. Other professional learning opportunities that support career development are arranged throughout the year.

Travel: Regional travel to independent schools across NSW is required.

Reporting Line: All positions are overseen by the Chief Executive and the Chief Operating Officer. The role reports to the Head of Student Services.

Application Process

Candidates are required to provide a:

- ▶ Covering letter
- ▶ Statement of Suitability for the Role (addressing the role description)
- ▶ Copy of full curriculum vitae (names of two referees are also requested. Referees will be contacted only after prior consultation with the candidate).

Applications close **Friday 30 April 2021.**

Please direct any questions to:

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