

---

## KATHERINE WEST HEALTH BOARD ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

### POSITION DESCRIPTION

---

POSITION TITLE:	Alcohol and Other Drugs Practitioner
SUPERVISORS:	Deputy CEO and Manager Primary Health Care
CLASSIFICATION LEVEL:	AO6 – AO7
NO. OF POSITIONS REPORTING DIRECTLY:	0
NO. OF POSITIONS REPORTING INDIRECTLY:	2

#### SUMMARY OF POSITION:

The role of the Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Practitioner is to reduce harm relating to substance misuse in communities through the Katherine West region by:

- Providing evidence-based interventions for individuals at risk of, or engaging in, harmful substance use;
- Providing appropriate referral pathways and after-care support for those requiring specialist AOD services
- Enhancing the capacity of individuals, families and communities to prevent and reduce harm arising from substance misuse in the community.
- Complement and support the activities of community-based AOD workers and the PHC team.

The AOD program is to form an integral part of the KWHB Primary Health Care strategy through both complementing and integrating with other AOD services provided by the Northern Territory Government (NTG) and non government organisations (NGOs).

#### PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Work with the Primary Health Care Manager and PHC staff to ensure the AOD programme integrates with existing PHC programmes.
2. Collaborate with the PHC team in formulating, implementing and monitoring care plans for clients with AOD issues.
3. Provide specialist AOD assessment, counselling and other services to clients as specified in client care plans.
4. Ensure co-morbid mental health conditions are addressed by appropriately qualified specialists.
5. Assist as required in arranging referrals to residential rehabilitation.
6. Ensure mechanisms are in place for health service patient record systems (*Communicare*) to collect AOD data to support client care and service planning.
7. In conjunction with AOD workers, take part in health promotion and other preventative activities in the community.
8. Provide regular professional mentoring and culturally appropriate support to community based AOD workers.
9. Oversee the provision of training and other workforce development of community-based AOD workers.
10. Oversee a continuous quality improvement approach to addressing AOD challenges within the Katherine West region and across the KWHB PHC team.

11. Advise the KWHB Leadership Group on strategic issues relating to reducing and managing AOD problems in the Katherine West region.
12. Adhere to timelines and reporting objectives as outlined funding agreements.
13. Inform management of progress, and/or perceived barriers to progress, of AOD programme development.

**SELECTION CRITERIA:**  
**Essential**

1. Registration with, or eligibility to obtain registration with the appropriate Health Professional Registration Board
2. Experience in the delivery of AOD services inclusive of specialist skills in assessing, managing and treating clients with AOD related problems in a cross cultural setting.
3. Ability and desire to work strategically within a multidisciplinary team to bring about positive change in health outcomes.
4. Familiarity with principles and practice of community development and health promotion in cross-cultural settings.
5. Understanding of the principles of quality improvement processes and their application in the health care setting.
6. Ability to communicate with and conduct in-services, training and education sessions to a range of audiences including community based AOD workers, health professionals, community organisations and community members.
7. Ability to utilise a computer effectively, particularly experience in use of patient information recall systems and computer programs e.g. Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher.
8. Knowledge of Work Health & Safety requirements in the workplace.
9. Current Manual Drivers Licence and eligibility to obtain an NT Manual Drivers Licence.
10. Ability to travel frequently by light aircraft or 4WD to remote aboriginal communities and stay for approximately one week at a time.

***Desirable***

1. Tertiary qualifications in AOD, Health Promotions or Public Health.
2. Previous experience delivering AOD services in an Indigenous setting.

All KWHB employees are expected to be familiar with, acknowledge and comply with relevant policy and procedure with particular emphasis on workplace safety, cultural security and equal employment opportunity, which are significant elements of KWHB's core values.

---

**Approval:**

Sean Heffernan  
 Chief Executive Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

---