



COVID-19 Surge Response

General Practitioner (Women's Health)

Job Description

Location:	Illawarra Women's Health Centre, Warilla NSW (80 km South of Sydney)
Reporting to:	Simon Eccleshall, Head of Programs Unit, MSF Australia
Technical lines:	Sally Stevenson, General Manager, IWHC with technical support from the Medical Unit, MSF Australia
Status:	Fixed term contract (6-months)
Band/Grade:	tbc
Date:	December 2020
Duration:	Six months
FT/PT:	Part-time 3 days / 22.5 hours per week or Full- time (negotiable)

Organisational Context

Médecins Sans Frontières, an international medical and humanitarian association founded in 1971, provides medical assistance to communities faced with crises endangering their survival. These crises typically take the form of armed conflict but also include epidemics, natural catastrophes and even exclusion from healthcare. Currently, MSF is present in 70 countries.

The Australian Section of Médecins Sans Frontières was established in 1995 and is one of 21 sections, 24 associations and other offices that form the MSF global movement providing oversight and expertise, funding and staff for field operations and communicating on the needs of our patients.

For this position, MSF Australia is partnering with the Illawarra Women's Health Centre (IWHC). Nationally accredited, the IWHC has a focus on mental health, women experiencing domestic and family violence and sexual assault, and sexual and reproductive health. The community-based Centre sees over 6,000 women a year and has an exceptional reputation, providing integrated care and social support to women with complex needs using a social model of health and a community development approach to service delivery.

COVID-19 Response: Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence (FDSV)

FDSV against women is a public health emergency and occurs in epidemic proportions in Australia. The mental and physical health consequences of FDSV are significant, long lasting and evidence based - impacting women, children, future generations, our community, our economy and ultimately, our country.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has critically exacerbated this emergency, and simultaneously thrown into stark relief the lack of services available to women seeking support because of FDSV. As a direct result of the COVID-19 social distancing requirements, domestic and family violence rates have risen across all socioeconomic groupings, and in all contexts - as was widely and publicly predicated in March. The Australian Institute of Criminology's findings about women's experiences of domestic violence during the early stages of the pandemic show that of the 15,000 Australian women surveyed, 11.6 per cent (1 in 10) reported experiencing emotionally abusive, harassing, or controlling

behaviour. The consensus across the sector is that the worst is yet to come after September, when much of the government financial support is removed or reduced, and we head into Christmas, a time when violence and abuse traditionally escalates.

The Illawarra Women's Health Centre is at the front line of this "shadow" pandemic. There is a significant increase in women contacting IWHC for support due to domestic and family violence. Nearly all these women have complex needs and the restrictions and safety measures of COVID have substantially increased levels of risk, fear, and anxiety. There is currently a 2-month waiting list for counselling at IWHC and existing staff are at risk of burn-out.

Overall responsibility:

This position requires a General Practitioner (GP) Women's Health to provide physical and mental health services to clients of the centre. Specifically, the GP will be required to provide sexual and reproductive health services including, if possible, medical termination of pregnancies (MTO) and/or intrauterine device (IUD) insertions as well as mental health support including the provision mental health care plans.

IWHC is a bulk billing service.

Primary responsibilities:

- Provide women's health GP services which meet the needs of clients, using a trauma informed and client centred approach delivered in a sensitive, informed and empowering manner.
- Practice within the guidelines and policy of the Centre including relevant policies of NSW Health and legislative requirements
- Work within the philosophical framework of the Centre, i.e. using feminist understanding and analysis regarding health and social issues for women, and taking a holistic approach to the work; this involves providing information and choices to women beyond own personal preferences, e.g. issues such as abortion, hormone treatment, sexuality, or the place of alternative therapies
- Maintain medical professional indemnity cover
- Maintain client records
- Communicate effectively with other members of the health care team about the client to ensure continuity and quality of care, as the need arises.

Additional:

Medical practitioners at the Centre support the work of the Women's Nurse Practitioner. This includes enabling the WNP to conduct work that she is trained and qualified to do, but which also can be categorised as '*services rendered on behalf of the medical practitioner*'. In accordance with the provisions of the Medicare specifications for '*services rendered on behalf of medical practitioner*' which states that the medical practitioner must have '*direct involvement for at least part of the service*' and have '*personally analysed the data and written the report*'.

Secondary responsibilities:

- All staff will work towards the goals of the centre, within a feminist, holistic framework, to promote the health of the diverse women who are our clients and our communities of interest. Staff will always provide respectful service which empowers women and support their rights.
- Support orientation of new staff/students and training of casual staff
- Contribute to Continuous Improvement (Plan Do Check Act Cycle) in respect of own area of work, and broader work of the Centre as time and resources permit

- Collect statistical information for the Centre's data collection as appropriate
- Contribute to policy development and planning in the Centre
- Share knowledge with other members of the health care team to support professional capacity building;
- Remain alert to themes regarding client/community needs, as expressed by clients
- Contribute to monitoring and evaluation of own area of work as well as the broader work of the Centre as resources, time and circumstances permit
- Assist in health promotion/community development activities of the Centre as time and circumstances permit
- Network and collaborate with relevant organisations in the pursuit of health outcome and to support community and professional capacity building
- Participate in staff development and training, and keep up to date with relevant legislative changes
- Participate in and prepare for support/supervision meetings as provided and/or group supervision
- Attend scheduled staff meetings as appropriate and as time allows
- Work as part of the team, and undertake some Centre duties on a shared or "as required" basis, such as answering phone, sharing "housekeeping" tasks such as washing up, watering pot plants, cleaning fridge
- Represent the Centre on occasions as arranged, and as time and circumstances permit.
- To ensure essential client care, it is expected that our staff will work extra time on occasions till the practitioner finishes seeing the last client of the day.

Selection criteria

Essential

- Tertiary qualifications, and at least five years' experience.
- Sexual and reproductive health training and experience, including experience in cervical screening
- Ability to work independently, and with a small community-based health team
- Ability to work with complex patients, including those who are experiencing or recovering from domestic and family violence
- A professional practice using a trauma informed and client centred approach.
- Medicare Provider Number
- Feminist understanding/analysis of women's issues/women's health issues
- Ability to work with women of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds
- Australian Working Rights

Desirable

- Training and registration to provide MToPS and/or IUD insertions
- Fluency in a community language other than English
- Experience in a community-based service

Applications

Applications MUST address individual selection criteria. You should also write a cover letter indicating why you want to work for Médecins Sans Frontières Australia and attach a copy of your CV.

Please note that a criminal record check and *Working With Children Check* is required as part of the selection process. Applicants with criminal records will not automatically be ineligible for the position they are applying for. Médecins Sans Frontières Australia has a Child Protection Policy in place and all employees are required to comply with this policy.

Médecins Sans Frontières Australia is committed to creating an inclusive workplace for all our staff. We believe that a diverse team helps us better serve those most in need, and we encourage people from a wide range of backgrounds to apply for this role, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds and people with disabilities.

Applications close: ASAP (Applications will be reviewed upon submission)

Applications and enquiries to: Email: officerecruitment@sydney.msf.org