



PGY2+ Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (DASSA)

Job Pack 2022 clinical year



as at April 2021

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About Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (DASSA)

Introduction

The DASSA position is suitable for a Trainee Medical Officer e.g. prevocational trainee who is yet to decide on which specialty pathway to take (general trainee), or a trainee who wishes to pursue a specialist pathway, e.g. an addiction medicine registrar, a general practice (GP) registrar, or a psychiatry registrar who wish to increase their experience, knowledge and skills in the clinical management of substance use conditions without enrolling in a specialist training program.

You will receive a well-balanced training program with rotations allocated to multiple metropolitan based sites including inpatient and outpatient settings. Full-time and part-time positions are available over a 12 month period depending on application suitability. DASSA encourages trainees who have an interest in alcohol and other drug conditions and treatment either as a future career, or for trainees who are considering specialities such as addiction medicine, psychiatry and general practice (GP) where alcohol and other drug conditions are very prevalent.

The program is accredited for addiction medicine registrars, or GP trainees as an “extended skills” position and for psychiatry registrars undertaking the Certificate in Addiction Psychiatry.

Key Dates

Applications open:	Monday 7 June 2021
Applications close:	Wednesday 30 June 2021 (close at midnight)
Referee reports close:	Wednesday 14 July 2021
Shortlisting commences:	Thursday 29 July 2021
Interviews:	To be advised
Round 1 results available to applicants:	Thursday 16 September 2021 (1 st preference matches only)
Round 2 results available to applicants (excluding general training):	Thursday 23 September 2021 (2 nd or higher preference matches)
Round 3 results available to applicants (excluding general training):	Thursday 30 September 2021 (3 rd or higher preference matches)
Round 4 onwards (including general training):	Thursday 7 October 2021 (4 th or higher preference matches)
Start date of employment:	Monday 7 February 2022

Number of positions in 2021 clinical year



Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (DASSA)

About DASSA

Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (DASSA) is the state government's leading drug and alcohol service provider. DASSA provides statewide services for the treatment of those affected by alcohol and other drug use by developing and delivering best practice in preventing the uptake of harmful drug use; reducing the harmful effects of licit and illicit drugs; and offering pathways out of harmful drug use.

DASSA provides treatment and rehabilitation for people who have complex alcohol and other drug related problems requiring a sophisticated level of specialist intervention and clinical expertise. Services include withdrawal management, a therapeutic community, pharmacotherapies, amphetamine treatment interventions, hospital consultation liaison, medicolegal assessments and statewide community-based counselling services.

DASSA provides workforce development strategies including training, research and teaching, and programs to address quality standards and service delivery in South Australia including specialist addiction medicine and GP training programs. DASSA also plays a key role in monitoring, research and evaluation activities.

DASSA has professional linkages to other government and non-government organisations that work with drug and alcohol problems, or drug and alcohol related problems to provide clients with an extensive range of health and welfare services.

The burden of disease and discrimination experienced by people who are substance dependent is high. Clients are from all socioeconomic levels but the socially disadvantaged are disproportionately represented. Many clients experience a range of health issues that may (or not) be directly related to their substance use but as they do not attend other health care services these may also need to be addressed. Clients may be self-referred or referred by a number of different health and other sources (eg court diversion programs). The service works closely with other services that may have contact with the clients, e.g. mental health services.

Addiction medicine is an area in which many doctors have expressed a need to have more education and skills. In addition to this position at DASSA there are also other training positions including Basic Physician Training (x1), advanced training in Addiction Medicine (up to 4 positions), and a psychiatry registrar undertaking a rotation. DASSA is also involved in teaching medical students from both universities.

This term provides an opportunity to develop skills in the provision of drug and alcohol services to an underserved client group that experiences significant barriers to good clinical care.

What you can expect from DASSA

Provide a short overview of the role, what should employees expect?

As a member of the medical staff the participant will work closely with nursing staff and other members of the multidisciplinary team in providing services to DASSA clients. Specifically the participant will be involved in:

- > Withdrawal management (inpatient based - from all substances).
- > Management of acute medical co-morbidities associated with substance withdrawal (e.g. alcohol withdrawal seizures).
- > Management of acute psychiatric co-morbidities associated with substance use (e.g. threatened suicide or self-harm behaviour), with senior supervisor support.
- > Management of medical comorbidities associated with substance use – in particular the treatment diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C and alcohol related liver disease.
- > Development of skills in recognising the acutely unwell or deteriorating patient – and so expediting timeous transfer to hospital (with senior supervisor support at all times).
- > Exposure to drug substitution programs (methadone and buprenorphine for opioid dependence) and stabilisation practices onto these programs; and
- > Assessing and responding to clients/potential clients in crisis.

As with any new area the participant's time at DASSA will be an educational one and as their confidence and competence grows they will take increasing responsibility.

Participants are required to work across various clinical settings and locations; community outpatient clinics in Stepney, Elizabeth and Morphett Vale, and DASSA Withdrawal Services (Glenside Campus).

Participants will obtain significant alcohol and other drug experience in inpatient and community settings whilst accessing a structured weekly educational program and high level of supervision

What are the key outcomes of the program?

The program provides extensive on-the-job learning experience for participants who have an interest in the field of alcohol and other drug conditions and the treatment available. It also provides formal training opportunities for those who may be interested in this as a future career option. For those who are considering specialities such as Addiction Medicine, Psychiatry and General Practice where alcohol and other drug issues are very prevalent, exposure to a rotation such as this is highly valuable.

Are contracts renewed every 12 months? If I want to stay on for an extra year, do I have to apply again?

Applicants are required to re-apply for a subsequent year.

What are the hours of work and overtime?

Full or part time positions are available, with participation in monthly based rosters and an on-call roster.

What education is provided?

A comprehensive introduction to the service including staff, IT, roster, training opportunities, resources provided, facilities and clinical work practices. All clinical policies and guidelines used in DASSA are available on the SALHN intranet.

Any time the participant is rostered to work in a different part of the service they will be provided with any relevant local program orientation.

Indicate how the supervision will be provided, will this vary from rotation to rotation?

From 9.00 am -5.00pm Monday-Friday there will be a combination of consultants, addiction medicine registrars, senior medical practitioners and other medical staff of varying experience in addition to highly skilled nursing staff for client/case review.

Withdrawal Services queries should generally be directed to the lead consultant. All staff can be contacted either face-to-face or by internal phone.

Each participant is nominated a dedicated supervisor who will provide weekly face-to-face, one hour supervision in addition to workplace supervision.

What other support is provided?

Additional supports are provided through multiple educational opportunities, these include a weekly junior medical officer tutorial session as well as a monthly Grand Round meeting with all of the DASSA medical staff in attendance. The Grand round meeting includes a journal club discussion and there is an additional monthly journal club that the trainees are expected to participate in. The participant will also be introduced and familiarised with all of the DASSA online resources available – including all clinical guidelines as well as policies and procedures relevant to their workplace and rotation. Unit managers are also available at every workplace site and they are important in terms of ensuring the day-to-day administrative procedures are clear.

Will the TMO supervise interns/others in their role?

Participants work in multi-disciplinary teams and as such at times they need to oversee the day-to-day working of the intern or the medical students. There is however also a more senior doctor (Consultant, Registrar or SMP) available to assist the participant with all supervisory tasks. They will not supervise the intern or medical students in isolation.

What pathways are there after the year is completed?

Many participants apply for General Practice, Physicians training, Psychiatry training, Public Health Medicine or Emergency Medicine training on completion of their rotation to DASSA. DASSA does offer further rotational exposure to trainees in these speciality training pathways for 3 or 6 months as per the training regulations. As per the Chapter of Addiction Medicine RACP training requirements upon completion of a recognised fellowship or basic physicians training with the RACP, trainees can be re-employed by DASSA to undertake addiction medicine advanced training.

Rotations at DASSA

JMOs are allocated to accredited positions (details of all SAMET accredited positions can be found on the SAMET website). The number of DASSA rotations varies from year to year, however one full-time position is usually available.

Selection into DASSA

About the selection panel

The selection panel includes Addiction Medicine Specialists and Career Medical Officers who provide clinical, educational and supervision services

Eligibility

- > The position provides a work-life balance and with minimal after-hours work commitments. The after-hours work commitments are however mandatory.
- > Part time options are available without the need to find a job share partner.
- > To apply for a position applicants must have general registration by commencement, or soon thereafter. They must be registered with AHPRA.
- > They must fulfil all necessary police, immunisation and other required clearances.
- > Participants are required to have a Medicare prescriber number.

Skills and knowledge required for the role

No previous alcohol and other drug experience is required and interns are welcome to apply. It is expected that a doctor will be comfortable interviewing a patient with an alcohol or other drug condition and be able to document or discuss a basic medical assessment.

Doctors should be able to perform an appropriate physical examination and order common screening investigations.

Good written, verbal and IT skills are recommended.

Selection Process

Our approach to selection

Applicants are ranked based on CV, referee reports and interview presentation.

Scores are awarded for each of these three categories and individuals marked accordingly. Ranking is based purely on achieved marks.

Your application

Applicants need to display a genuine interest in alcohol and other drug conditions and supporting DASSA's aims and objectives through the provision of medical services to the community.

A minimum of two referee reports will be sought from applicants.

Curriculum Vitae

No previous alcohol and other drug experience is required, however the panel will consider recency of practice, research, and solid referee reports which outline the applicant's ability to work with complex and challenging patients in a multidisciplinary team.

Cover letter

Cover letter required (1 page)

Other application questions

You will be required to answer the following question in the application form:

1. *In no more than 500 words describe your clinical experience relevant to and interest in alcohol and other drug conditions.*
2. *In no more than 300 words describe a time you managed an emotionally charged situation with a patient or a patient's family.*
 - a) *What made the situation challenging?*
 - b) *What actions you took, your role, who else you involved, the outcomes and what you learned from the situation?*
3. *In no more than 250 words describe a situation from your clinical work where you had to manage time pressures and high workloads while demonstrating your commitment to providing a quality service to patients and their families. Please outline the situation, what actions you took, your role, who else you involved and the outcomes.*
4. *In no more than 100 words describe your future career ideas.*

Interview

Applicants will be contacted via email regarding an interview time within one week of SA MET applications closing. Those who are not shortlisted will be notified via email at the same time.

Interviews are aimed to enable both parties the best opportunity to exchange key information for an informative and detailed interview. Interview times are approximately 30 minutes with time to ask any questions.

The Panel are interested in your career to date and future objectives.

Feedback is available from the Panel once all applicants have been advised of the outcome of their application.

Contacts

Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (DASSA)

Addiction Medicine Specialist	Name: Vicky Cock Telephone: (08) 7087 1700 Email: Victoria.Cock@sa.gov.au
Medical Placement Administration	Name: Ian Richards Telephone: (08) 7425 5121 Email: Ian.Richards@sa.gov.au

Role Description

View the Role Description [here](#)

Any further questions?

SA Health Salaried Medical Officers Enterprise Agreement 2017 [here](#)

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) registration standards [here](#)

For more information

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

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www.ausgoal.gov.au/creative-commons