

GUIDE DOGS ASSOCIATION OF SA & NT INC

Job Specification

Position Title: Occupational Therapist

Reports to: Team Leader, Vision Services

1. Summary of the broad purpose of the position

The Occupational Therapist will be a specialist resource for Guide Dogs SA.NT, working with consumers who are blind/vision impaired, Deaf / Hearing Impaired and Deaf Blind. As a consultant OT you will be working within the Vision Services team. You will be responsible for assessment and implementation of programs to consumers, in hospitals, home and community settings, including in the area of vision loss due to head trauma. You will adhere to the National Disability Standards, and Guide Dogs SA.NT guidelines, policies and procedures. As the consultant OT for the organization, you will be expected to utilise considerable professional autonomy and will require a high level of initiative.

2. Competency Profile

- 2.1 Knowledge of and experience dealing with people with a sensory disability and/or neurological impairment.
- 2.2 Knowledge and understanding of the human services industry.
- 2.3 A minimum of three (3) years work experience in the field.
- 2.4 Excellent communication, relationship management and counselling skills.
- 2.5 Expert understanding of theory and practices in Occupational Therapy for people with vision loss.

3. Key Working Relationships

- 3.1 Accountable to the Team Leader, for professionally assessing and assisting clients to orientate themselves safely in a manner specific to their needs.
- 3.2 Responsible to the Vision Services team for contributing to an environment that is based upon productivity, teamwork, respect, trust and continuous improvement.

Acknowledged by:

Occupational Therapist
/ / 09

Team Leader, Vision Services
/ / 09

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4. Special Conditions

- 4.1 Some out of hours work may be necessary.
- 4.2 Whilst based in Adelaide some intrastate travel is necessary to service regional South Australians.
- 4.3 The person may be required to travel interstate for staff development or training as required.

5. Position Outcomes

- 5.1 To undertake assessments and implement rehabilitation programs for people who have sustained vision loss due to head trauma (stroke). This pertains to all client services, specifically, Hearing Solutions, Sensory Directions and Orientation and Mobility.
- 5.2 To act as a specialist resource in vision impairment/disability, to consumers, carers, advocates and community agencies.
- 5.3 Maintain up to date client and statistical data and prepare written assessment training reports as requested by external agencies.
- 5.4 Ensure individualised and client centred programs are designed to ensure consumers are empowered to maximise their independence.
- 5.5 Develop and implement culturally appropriate vision rehabilitation programs for consumers from Indigenous and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds (CALD).
- 5.6 Develop networks and work in partnership with Government and Non Government organisations, in order to maximise access to vision rehabilitation for consumers.
- 5.7 Prepare and present workshops, lectures and seminars for other agencies, professional groups and families.
- 5.8 Comply with ethical and professional standards as documented in Guide Dogs SA.NT policies and procedures.
- 5.9 At all times, ensure consumer rights are adhered to in accordance with the National Standards for Disability Services.
- 5.10 Identify and document issues of relevance to vision rehabilitation, or as requested by Guide Dogs SA.NT.
- 5.11 Take every opportunity to keep abreast of new developments in the field of vision rehabilitation and to identify and implement continuous improvement initiatives to keep Guide Dogs SA.NT at the forefront of vision services.

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- 5.12 Attend organisational training and external courses for personal and professional development, in conjunction with annual Professional Development Reviews and as requested by Guide Dogs SA.NT.
- 5.13 Liaise with medical and allied health professionals in relation to client needs, conditions and progress.
- 5.14 To participate in relevant research projects as determined by the organisation to enhance Guide Dogs SA.NT's standing as a leader in the field of vision rehabilitation.
- 5.15 Work cooperatively interagency to increase the reputation of Guide Dogs SA.NT and to present a professional image at all times.
- 5.16 To provide direct services to clients of Guide Dogs SA.NT Low Vision Services with an emphasis on functional outcomes.
- 5.17 Contribute to a safe and healthy work environment, free from discrimination and harassment by adhering to the provisions of the relevant legislative requirements including EEO and OHS & W, the Code of Conduct and organisational policies.

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Person Specification

Position Title:	Occupational Therapist
Qualifications:	Must hold a degree in Occupational Therapy from a recognised tertiary institution.
Desirable qualifications:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A knowledge of Acquired Brain Injury vision impairment.2. Experience working with people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds including Indigenous Australians.

Competencies:

1. Demonstrate excellent communication skills, with a range of people from diverse backgrounds.
2. Demonstrated understanding of the impact of vision loss on individuals, their family, and or carers.
3. Demonstrated ability to design, implement, monitor and evaluate consumer focused vision rehabilitation programs by applying thorough and professional knowledge of Occupational Therapist theories and methodologies
4. Demonstrated high level of problem solving skills.
5. Be a highly developed professional and demonstrate a sound ability to be accountable, work autonomously, and show initiative.
6. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships and maintain confidentiality.
7. Ability to work co-operatively with others by taking personal accountability for creating and supporting team environment and showing genuine respect for individuals within the team.
8. Ability to development relationships, provide counselling and demonstrate empathy when dealing with clients and their families.
9. Demonstrated knowledge of relevant disability legislation, including that related to duty of care, access rights, privacy, confidentiality and mandatory notification.