

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

Business unit:	School Support Services
Position title:	Educator with Master of Guidance and Counselling
Position classification / level:	Equivalent to: Band 3 Level 1 of the Teachers' Award – State 2012
Employment type:Band	Contract
Hours & duration:	Full-time – 1.0FTE – 36.25 hours per week
Reporting to:	School Support Services Coordinator
Date position reviewed:	August, 2017

### About SALDA

**1 in 14 Australian children have a hidden disability known as Language Disorder.** Speech & Language Development Australia (SALDA) is the nation's peak body supporting and advocating for the needs of children and young people with speech, language and related disorders.

For over 40 years our not-for-profit organisation has developed a unique, multidisciplinary approach to helping the 1 in 14 children with Language Disorder find their voice.

When people have a voice their thoughts, feelings and aspirations are recognised by others. They possess the capacity to make an impact, both on their own personal situation as well as the broader community, through their actions and words.

We provide therapy and education in addition to leading on professional development, research and advocacy initiatives related to speech and language disorders. These services include our clinics, e-therapy programs, School Support Service and The Glenleighden School. We partner with the community, health professionals, educators and families to help children and young people find their voice.

Our vision is to be the leader in enabling better outcomes for children and young people with disability for whom language is their primary disorder.

## Position summary

The educational and therapeutic services of SALDA include school support services that are delivered throughout Queensland, with bases in Brisbane and Townsville.

The Educator is a member of the multidisciplinary School Support Services team. The role would include an emphasis on educational outcomes, related curriculum issues and social/emotional/behavioural issues for students with a disability for whom language is their primary disorder.

The Educator will be required, as part of a team, to provide advice in contextualising student development needs through a screening process and to develop, implement and direct individual intervention programs to facilitate access to the curriculum and capacity building for school staff.

The Educator will have involvement in the development and maintenance of the training components of organisational professional development program.

## Main duties and responsibilities

The main duties and responsibilities of the position include, but are not limited to:

- In collaboration with other relevant team members, be responsible for the creation, delivery and evaluation of the School Support Services program to specified clients in the Brisbane and Townsville metropolitan areas as well as rural and remote areas across Queensland. This includes:
  - Maintaining and establishing relationship with existing and new school staff, when appropriate;
  - Assisting school staff in the identification of students eligible for School Support Services.
  - As part of a team working in schools, to screen students and gather data through interviewing classroom teacher and support staff including teacher aides / parents;
  - As part of a team design programs and strategies to address the educational and therapeutic needs of students with identified language disorder;
  - Delivering individual intervention plans which are responsive to the needs of students and school staff within the educational setting, either by direct face to face contact or via the telehealth model (e.g. Skype). A component of the intervention plans will include specialised equipment and use of technology;
  - Leading meetings including School Support Services team, school staff members and parents to discuss and disseminate information with regard to students and programs;
  - Providing training/professional development to teachers, learning support staff, teacher aides and parents.
- Establish and maintain effective collaborative relationships with the School Support Services team and other staff members of SALDA.
- Contribute to, and assume responsibility for, reporting and data collection procedures, as well as relevant correspondence and administrative tasks. Contribute to tasks and duties involved in the day-to-day administration and operation of the Schools Support Services team.

- Advocate for students with language disorders, in accordance with the SALDA's mission and vision.
- Participate in research as required.

### Qualifications, knowledge, skills and experience

#### Qualifications / Registrations / Professional memberships

##### Essential:

- A minimum of Bachelor Degree in Education or Graduate Diploma in Education from an approved tertiary institution
- Masters Degree of guidance and counselling
- Full registration with the Queensland College of Teachers.

##### Desirable:

- A qualification in Special Needs Education.
- Experience supporting students with social/emotional/behavioural needs

#### Knowledge, skills and experience

##### Essential:

- A demonstrated ability to identify students with language disorder with an emphasis on social/emotional/behaviour issues, identify specific needs of individual student and develop a plan for intervention that will address these needs.
- Experience in and understanding of multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach for students with specific needs, with a focus on language disorder.
- Demonstrated ability to be self-motivated and solution focused with attention to identifying and implementing innovative problem solving approaches.
- Demonstrated ability to self-direct as well as work effectively with others in a team.

##### Desirable:

- Knowledge of practices, acts, regulations and systems relating to education, special education and the EAP verification process.
- Understanding of the complexities of differential diagnosis for pervasive developmental disabilities incorporating communication disorders.

### Mandatory Requirements

- A current Blue Card or Exemption Card (working with children check) or other acceptable evidence.
- Driver's Licence
- Senior First Aid Certificate

### **Working Relationships**

- The Special Needs Educator will work closely with the School Support Services team.
- The Special Needs Educator will build positive working relationships with management, administrative, therapy and education staff throughout the organisation as well as with schools, medical, and other health professionals across Queensland.