

## **ASSERT Accredited Sex Therapist Criteria**

An Accredited Sex Therapist is a person with the following qualifications and criteria:

### **1. PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

Must hold a degree from a recognized University in Australia as listed in the Australian Qualifications Framework, register of recognized institutions (<http://www.aqf.edu.au/register.htm>) or from an international institution listed in the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR) register:

(<http://www.workplace.gov.au/workplace/Individual/Migrant/NationalOfficeofOverseasSkillsRecognitionNOOSR.htm>).

It is preferable that the degree is in an area related to sex therapy and has at least 80 hours of course content in sexual counselling. It is expected that a sex therapist has completed further education in sexual health counselling.

This training should be:

- A degree or diploma in sexual health from a university
- Evidence of a high level of skill as a practicing counsellor/psychotherapist
- Additional educational opportunities such as sexual health courses, workshops or sexual health conferences will be considered by the ASSERT Accreditation Committee.

### **2. ASSERT Code of Ethics**

The applicant will have read the ASSERT Code of Ethics.

By signing the certification application form, the applicant agrees to be bound by the ASSERT Code of Ethics.

### **3. PROFESSIONAL TRAINING DOCUMENTATION IN SEX THERAPY**

The applicant must have worked a minimum of 200 hours, face-to-face sex therapy counselling, and has been in clinical practice for at least two years.

The applicant has received, (within the last two years) 24 hours of clinical sex therapy supervision by an ASSERT approved Supervisor.

The following would be considered examples of a sex therapist:

- Work in private practice where a major part of their client work is sex therapy/counselling.
- Work for an organisation where they provide client-contact sex therapy counselling.
- Work with individuals and couples who need counselling for sexual related issues.
- Facilitate sexual and relationships group therapy.
- Facilitate a support group for sexually related issues.

#### **4. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

The accreditation committee of ASSERT recognizes that there may be applicants with extensive experience in sex therapy who have not had the opportunity of a formal qualification in the area. The committee will consider these applications individually under these special circumstances category. Special circumstances could include specialization in one or limited areas of sex therapy. The ASSERT Accreditation Committee will review the documentation and work experience of the applicant.

#### **5. DOCUMENTATION**

The following documentation must be submitted to the ASSERT Accreditation Committee:

- 1) Completed application for ASSERT Accredited Sex Therapist.
- 2) Copies of official transcripts of program(s) in which degree(s)/diploma(s) were awarded, certified by a Justice of Peace.
- 3) Detailed documentation of 200 hours of clinical sex therapy.
- 4) A nomination signature from an ASSERT Member, supporting the application or two professional referees supporting the application.
- 5) Proof of registration with an approved professional organisation such as: ACA - CAPA – AASW or equivalent Professional Association.
- 6) Copy of current professional insurance or certified copy of letter OF EMPLOYMENT from government or private organisation if covered by indemnity insurance by them.
- 7) Copy Of National Police Check and/or A signed statutory declaration stating that they have no criminal convictions related to their professional conduct or relevant offenses.

- 8) Complete the Permission to display professional details on ASSERT website.

Upon approval of the Accredited Professional Sex Therapist by ASSERT Accreditation Committee, the successful applicant will receive a letter in recognition of having met the ASSERT requirements for Accredited Sex Therapist membership.

The applicant will then be invited to become a member of ASSERT.

When the applicant has accepted the offer, they will be required to pay a membership fee.

On receipt of the membership fee, the applicant will receive notification of their accredited sex therapy membership.

## **6. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES CATEGORY**

For those applicants being considered under the Special Circumstances Category, the ASSERT Accreditation Committee will clearly indicate where the applicant has met the required criteria for Sex Therapist.

ASSERT Accreditation Committee will also indicate if there are unmet criteria and make clear recommendations of how these can be met within a practical time frame.

## **7. MAINTAINING PROFESSIONAL STATUS**

To maintain accredited professional sex therapist membership of ASSERT, every **three years** or a period stated by ASSERT board, members must submit documentation of:

- 200 hours of sex therapy annually,
- 12 hours of clinical sex therapy supervision annually,
- At least 20 hours per year of activities such as workshops, conferences, seminars and reading academic journals or books related to sex therapy.

To retain the ASSERT Professional Sex Therapy status, the member must pay membership on an annual basis.

If the membership lapses the accreditation status will also lapse.