

ASSERT NSW

Professional Member – Sex Therapist

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

1. Professional qualifications

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 84 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 NSW Accreditation Committee.

2. ASSERT NSW Code of Ethics

The applicant will have read the ASSERT National Code of Ethics. By signing the certification application form, the applicant agrees to be bound by the ASSERT NSW 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 counseling, and has been in private practice for at least **two** years.
- Has received **24** hours of clinical sex therapy supervision by an ASSERT NSW approved Supervisor.

The following would be considered examples of sex therapy:

- Work in private practice where a major part of their clients have sex therapy/counseling

- Work for an organization where they provide client-contact sex therapy/counseling
- Work with individuals and couples who need counseling for sexual related issues
- Facilitate sexual and relationships group therapy
- Facilitate a support group for sexually related issues

4. Professional Member - Sex Therapist - Special Circumstances

The accreditation committee of ASSERT NSW 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 this 'special circumstances category'.

Special circumstances could include specialization in one or limited areas of sex therapy. The ASSERT NSW Accreditation Committee will review the documentation and work experience of the applicant.

5. Documentation

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

1. Completed application for ASSERT NSW Sex Therapist, signed and dated.
2. Official transcripts of program(s) in which degree(s)/diploma(s) were awarded.
3. Detailed documentation of 200 hours of clinical sex therapy.
4. Volunteer work or Internship hours cannot be included.
5. A nomination signature from an ASSERT NSW Professional Member, supporting the application or two professional referees supporting the application.
6. Proof of registration with an approved professional organisation such as:
ACA - CAPA – AASW or equivalent Professional Association.
7. Copy of current Professional Indemnity insurance.
8. Complete the Permission to display professional details on the ASSERT NSW website.

6. Professional Membership

Upon approval of the ASSERT NSW Accreditation Committee, the successful applicant will receive a letter in recognition of having met the ASSERT NSW requirements for professional membership in the area of sex therapy.

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

Professional Membership - Special Circumstances Category

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

In order to maintain accredited professional sex therapist membership of ASSERT NSW, every three years 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 NSW Professional Sex Therapy status, the member must pay membership on an annual basis. If the membership lapses the accreditation status will also lapse.