

## **ConnectGround Gestalt Centre**

### **External Graduate Intern Application Process**

October 2019

Dear Graduate

We are now taking applications from graduates wishing to join ConnectGround Clinic in 2019.

ConnectGround Clinic emerged from the Gestalt Therapy Australia training program in 2013 to provide our psychotherapy students an opportunity to practice. ConnectGround is currently staffed by Gestalt Therapy Australia student interns and provides low cost, ongoing, individual and group therapy that has a relational and humanistic focus. Our primary emphasis is on the therapeutic relationship as a key factor in the development of awareness to support health, flexibility and change.

ConnectGround offers interns, from GTA and now graduates of external programs, an opportunity to work in a practice team who are supported to reflect on their experience of the work with clients, and the ways the work undertaken with their clients is central to their development as counsellor/therapists.

ConnectGround, as a service, is also committed to seeking ongoing client evaluation of their experience in the clinic in order to develop and strengthen the services provided. We offer a model of ongoing therapy, an increasingly rare opportunity in the current community services environment.

CG Graduate Interns will be invited into a 'clinic placement' model and may be asked to support the clinic by assisting with intake & assessment and preparation of materials and promotion. Each intern will be expected to attend a 4.5 hour shift weekly on either a Thursday or Friday. ConnectGround runs for 43 weeks of the year.

External Graduate interns will be expected to make themselves available for individual and group supervision as scheduled.

#### **Prerequisites**

- Successfully completed a relevant counselling or psychotherapy training program (Eg: Masters of Counselling, Degree in Counselling, Graduate Diploma in Counselling, Psychology etc)
- Knowledge of clinical theory and a capacity for clinical thinking and practice
- Contact details of a professional referee who can comment on your capacity to work with clients under supervision
- Have a current Working with Children Check and a Police Records Check
- To have secured professional indemnity insurance
- To be fully available for a 4.5 hour shift either on Thursday or Friday
- To be available to attend the professional development training and additional training as required

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PO Box 60, Brunswick West, Victoria, 3055

**e.** [manager@connectground.com.au](mailto:manager@connectground.com.au)

**w.** [www.connectground.com.au](http://www.connectground.com.au)

- To be available to attend monthly clinic meetings and group supervision sessions
- To be available for the full year of the clinic (approx. 43 weeks)
- To attend 20 hours of supervision over the course of the internship

## **The Application & Selection Process**

### Step 1: Written Application

Please submit to Carolyn Stewart (Manager of Clinical Services) at [manager@connectground.com.au](mailto:manager@connectground.com.au).

1. A full resume
2. A brief statement about your current experience as a counsellor / psychotherapist. You may want to reference relevant study, work or volunteer activities.
3. Write a brief statement about your strengths and growing edges as a trainee therapist.
4. Write a statement of 3 learning goals that you have in relation to your desire to participate in an internship. Also describe any supports and challenges that are relevant to these goals.
5. Anything that you need to tell us that might influence your capacity to practice as a graduate intern at ConnectGround eg: upcoming leave planned
6. A statement of your availability, preferred shift times and possible obstacles to full participation in an internship.
7. A brief outline of a possible therapeutic plan for working with the case study below to discuss at the interview:

**“Susan, aged 34, has just come out of a 4-year relationship that was ended by her partner. The end of the relationship has evoked anxiety and depression and fear that she will never find another partner. She is acutely aware of her biological clock and had thought that her ex-partner would be the father of her children.”**

### Step 2: Interview and Referee check

After applications are received you will be invited to an interview with the ConnectGround Manager.

At the interview you will be asked to briefly outline a therapeutic plan for working with the case study above.

The interviewer will expect that candidates demonstrate:

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- (a) A high level of self-awareness and a capacity to articulate something of their developmental process around working with clients
- (b) A personal and theoretical congruence with gestalt therapeutic practice goals and the clinic ethos
- (c) A capacity to articulate their approach to working with clients
- (d) A willingness to participate in rigorous dialogue about their developing practice

### References

You will be asked to nominate one of your course facilitator's or a placement supervisor to provide a reference regarding your level of skill and readiness for taking up a place in the clinic.

### Step Three: offer of placement and feedback

At the conclusion of this process you will be contacted and offered an internship to start at an agreed upon date or advised that you will not be offered an internship at this stage. If you are not offered a place in the clinic we will offer feedback regarding our decision and identify any areas of development.

In addition to your readiness to practice, the needs of ConnectGround (gender balance etc) will also be considered in the selection process.

We look forward to receiving your application

Carolyn Stewart  
ConnectGround Manager of Clinical Services  
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