

**Functional Job Requirements
For the Position of Head Of Student Services (HOSS)
Department of Education, Training and the Arts Queensland**

This document was developed for the following purposes: assisting in the development of rehabilitation programs for injured or ill employees, and providing detailed information about job demands to medical practitioners and allied health professionals undertaking medical reviews of Departmental employees.

This report identifies those activities which are essential to successful performance in this role. In determining whether a work activity is a “critical activity” the following questions are considered;

- Does the worker spend greater than 33% of designated work time performing this activity? and / or,
- Is specialized training/experience required to complete this activity? Has this been completed by only a small proportion of staff in this geographical region? and/or,
- Is this activity performed in an environment where no other workers are readily available to assist with its completion? and/or,
- Does this activity occur without prior notice and require immediate attention leaving no time to seek assistance to complete it? and/or,
- Is this activity core to the development of stakeholder relationships, which are essential to achieving successful outcomes? and/or
- Would an inability to perform this activity result in an increased health and safety risk to co-workers, students and/or members of the public?

The development process included; site observation of work environments, staff interviews, staff feedback on draft documents and consideration of benchmark publications for the analysis and description of work activities and job demands specific to particular positions (the Revised Handbook for Analysing Jobs, the Occupational Information Network and the Australian Job Guide, 2006).

This report indicates the average time spent across a working week on each work activity and also on each physical demand of work. In order to make this information meaningful to the various users of this report, in some instances the time spent is expressed as a single word, as a percentage of total time or as an actual amount of time (i.e. hours and minutes). The timeframes used are based on the benchmark descriptions (from the publications above) for expressing frequency of performance of work tasks drawn from the publications above.

Descriptor	Percentage of Time	Amount of Time based on 25 hours per week
Not present	0%	0 mins
Rare	1%-7%	15 mins – 1 hour 15 mins
Occasional	8%-33%	1 hour 30 mins – 8 hours 15 mins
Frequent	34%-66%	8 hours 30 mins – 16 hours 30 mins
Constant	67%-100%	16 hours 45 mins – 25 hours

Description of the Head of Student Services:

The Head of Student Services (HOSS) is primarily concerned with the social and emotional demands of students from prep to grade 7. Students in grades prep to 7 will range in age from 4 to 13 years old. The HOSS assists with the development and implementation of counselling programs, the assessment and identification of students requiring intervention and liaison with parents and teaching staff. HOSS's may be exposed to higher levels of aggressive behaviour than other teachers and are usually trained in physical handling and restraining. In addition, all HOSS have a duty of care to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students within their care.

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Hours of Work and Scheduled Breaks—

Hours of Work: The ordinary hours of work for Head of Student Services is 25 hours per week. The ordinary spread of hours of work exclusive of meal times is between 8.30am and 3.30pm Monday to Friday. These ordinary hours shall be worked continuously excluding an unpaid meal break of at least 30 minutes. Alternate hours can be worked between 7.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday. The maximum rostered duty time shall not exceed 7 hours per day or a minimum rostered duty time not less than 3 hours. These alternate hours must be implemented through the Local Consultative Committee (Refer to Teachers Enterprise Bargaining Agreement for details).

Meal Breaks: Head of Student Services are entitled to an unpaid meal break of 45 minutes if in excess of 5 hours is worked on any day, to be taken between 11.30am and 2pm or such other times as may be arranged by the Principal. Meal breaks may be altered to 30 minutes through consultation with the Local Consultative Committee. Total period for meal breaks for Head of Student Services per week is no less than 225 minutes.

Rest Pauses: Head of Student Services are entitled to a rest pause of 10 minutes duration to be taken mid-morning which will be considered as rostered duty time.

Bus and Playground Supervision: Teacher Aides will relieve teachers of bus and playground duty as far as possible and where appropriate. Head of Student Services are still required to undertake some part of bus and playground duties. Head of Student Services shall not be required to undertake bus supervision for more than 30 minutes after completion of the daily program.

Non-Contact Time: Head of Student Services are entitled to at least 2 hours of rostered preparation and correction time to be allocated in blocks of at least one half-hour, with the objective being to provide one hour blocks of time, where possible.

The Activity Frequencies below have been calculated based on a week of 5 days comprising 5 hours per day. Rare = 0 -1h 45mins per week, Occasional = 2hrs - 8hrs 20mins per week, Frequent = 8hrs 30mins – 16hrs 36mins, Constant = 16hrs 45mins - 25hrs (times are exclusive of scheduled breaks).

	Job Activity	Average Time	Critical Job Demand
1	Individual/small group counseling and whole class interventions. Individual counseling generally occurs whilst indoors and sitting, whereas group counseling can be either indoors or outdoors and typically takes the form of participation in games and activities, or the running of whole class sessions.	Up to 16 hrs 30 mins per week	Yes
2	Liaison with internal teachers to identify students requiring further assessment or intervention. This may involve discussion with the teacher, observation of the student in class and/or provision of strategies to help manage the child's behavior in class.	Up to 25 hrs per week	Yes
3	Liaison with visiting specialist teachers: usually in relation to children requiring assistance for Autistic Spectrum Disorder or Speech Therapy.	Up to 1 hr 15 mins per week	Yes
4	Parent liaison: involving telephone and face to face contact with parents, requiring recollection or sourcing of specific information related to current students.	Up to 8 hrs 15 mins per week	Yes
5	Development and implementation of programs aimed at proactively addressing areas such as self esteem, problem solving and building friendships. Participation in this activity may vary from school to school.	Up to 8 hrs 15 mins per week	Yes

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	Job Activity	Average Time	Critical Job Demand
6	Computer based work for email, planning and administrative tasks.	Up to 8 hrs 15 mins per week	Yes
7	Specified non-contact time: involving planning, completion of administrative paperwork, correction of students' work, reports, class preparation e.g. photocopying/ resource preparation.	2 hours per week	Yes
8	Preparation of Individual Education Programs (IEPs) for students as required.	Up to 8 hrs 15 mins per week	Yes
9	Teaching/Classroom Duties: all Heads of Student Services are required to maintain a teaching load. This load will vary between schools, however it will usually be between .1 and .5 FTE. Some semesters may involve limited teaching hours as HOSS' required to set up assessments, tests for students to enrol in special curriculum programs etc. See demands as per Teacher Activity Analysis Summary.	Up to 8 hrs 15 mins per week	Yes
10	Supervision during meal breaks (including playground, library and bus duty): involving mobilising around a pre-determined area and completing visual and auditory monitoring of students' activities and school premises, providing assistance to students as required.	Up to 3 hrs per week	Dependent on the school
In support of the above activities performed during rostered duty time, the activities below are performed by most teachers.			
11	Staff meetings/liaison with teaching staff: involving face to face or (depending upon distance) teleconferenced meetings at which day to day operational issues, short term and long term strategic planning for the school occur.	Up to 8 hrs 15 mins per week	Yes
The Head of Student Services may also participate in extra-curricular activities most of which are of a voluntary nature. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intra-school sport; and/or • After school student elective activities. 			No

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Frequency of Physical Job Demands (Average % of Shift)

Demands	Not Present	Rare (0-7%)	Occasional (8-33%)	Frequent (34-66%)	Constant (67-100%)	Demands	Not Present	Rare (0-7%)	Occasional (8-33%)	Frequent (34-66%)	Constant (67-100%)
Sitting					√	Reaching			√		
Standing - Static		√				Handling			√		
Standing - Dynamic			√			Pushing		√			
Walking - Flat Terrain			√			Pulling		√			
Walking - Slippery/ Gravel Terrain		√				Lifting		√			
Climbing - Step Stools/Ladders		√				Carrying		√			
Climbing - Stairs		√				Balancing - Above Ground		√			
Stooping		√				Fine Motor				√	
Kneeling		√				Control Operation			√		
Crouching - One Off		√				Arm- Hand Steadiness			√		
Crawling		√				Driving		√			
Auditory Function					√	Visual Function					√

Tools / Equipment Handled

Students' chairs and desks - up to approximately 3 kg and 8 kg respectively
Computers and data projectors - For use during information technology based learning activities with students and administrative tasks.
Pens/ pencils/ chalk/ whiteboard markers and books
Phone– for planning and liaison with internal staff, external persons/parties and parents
Training Materials– for example data projector, white board markers

Loads Lifted & Carried

	Not Present	Rare (0-7%)	Occasional (8-33%)	Frequent (34-66%)	Constant (67-100%)
0-5 kg					
6-10kg					
11-15kg		Between floor and shoulder height			
16-20kg					
21-25kg					

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Risk Based Physical Environmental Considerations:

- There may be clutter in the work area, increasing the risk of trip hazards, awkward bending and lifting, and poor storage practices
- Items, furniture and fixtures may be poorly positioned or designed by staff members, requiring the adoption of awkward postures
- There may be limited/confined space for movement during performance of some activities
- There may be constant low-level ambient noise (from students, traffic, school activities e.g. music practice etc)
- There may be limited classroom lighting and ventilation in some facilities
- Some work may be performed outdoors or in an area exposed to the elements
- Fine motor work may be performed in temperatures of 16 degrees or lower and above 24 degrees, due to local environmental conditions and capacity to school facilities to control ambient air temperatures
- Other work may be performed in temperatures above 24 degrees (occasionally in summer)
- Presence of loose objects in offices where counseling is occurring (as the potential exists for these to be used as missiles)

Psychosocial Risks to be Considered
Time pressure/high workload- while deadlines exist for many tasks, the level of demand is dependent upon school environment and staffing level. HOSS' may also be required to address multiple demands and a large number of unplanned interruptions may occur throughout the day.
Poor worker/team leader relationships- may exist in some environments.
Environmental Stress– constant low level ambient noise from students, PA announcements, school bells etc requiring considerable projection of voice to be heard. Some temperature variation during winter and summer.
Insufficient work breaks- shortened breaks may be taken on a voluntary basis due to high workload and time constraints. Breaks may be limited by meal and playground supervision duties, particularly if there is insufficient planning e.g. unplanned wet weather duties. Although break times are stipulated, teachers do not always receive an uninterrupted break.
Investigations - participate in reporting, investigation and resolution processes, including mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect and participation as a witness or party to performance, discipline, grievance, WorkCover or other processes.
Policies - comply with departmental policies, procedures, guidelines and the code of conduct, including undertaking risk management processes to ensure the health and safety of students and others under their supervision or direction.

Social / Interpersonal Demands	
Dealing with Physically Aggressive People	Deal With Unpleasant or Angry People
Assisting and Caring for Others	Developing and Building Teams
Establishing and Maintaining Interpersonal Relationships	Staffing Organizational Units
Resolving Conflicts and Negotiating with Others	Coaching and Developing Others
Providing Consultation and Advice to Others	Performing for or Working Directly with the Public
Communicating with Supervisors, Peers, or Subordinates	Communicating with Persons Outside Organization
Guiding, Directing, and Motivating Subordinates	Coordinate or Lead Others
Training and Teaching Others	Interpreting the Meaning of Information for Others

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Considerations for Assessment of Physical Job Fitness:

- Assessment of sustained sitting capacity of 50 minutes (acknowledging ability to regularly vary posture)
- Sufficient flexibility to allow adoption of awkward postures when working with children, particularly at floor level
- Assessment of fine motor dexterity or actual keyboard operation for typing activities
- Symmetry, range and discomfort with movements of the spinal and peripheral joints, including hips, knees, ankles, shoulders and wrists
- Able to ascend and descend 2 x flights of stairs
- Sufficient flexibility to allow adoption of awkward postures when working with students, particularly on floor level
- Sufficient visual and auditory function to enable interaction and response to students
- A moderate level of strength and cardiovascular fitness to allow participation in exercise based counselling activities

Other Considerations

- History of neck/shoulder discomfort associated with static and sustained repetitive neck flexion postures
- History of upper limb, lower limb or spinal pain with repetitious or static tasks
- History of lower back pain with sustained sitting
- Knowledge of ergonomic principles for clerical workstations and knowledge of / ability to learn safe crouching/stooping posture (with flexion occurring at the hips rather than in the lumbar spine)
- Knowledge of correct manual handling techniques i.e. ability to bend at hips, bend knees and squat with a straight back
- Knowledge of vocal health and techniques to enable safe projection of voice

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Photographs of Selected Work Activities and Work Environments

***** Education Queensland to insert further photographs as necessary*****