


VSA Assignment Description

Assignment Title	Rehabilitation Physiotherapy Trainer
Assignment Modality	Standard
Assignment Number	42053
Country	Cook Islands
Location	Rarotonga
Partner Organisation	Te Vaerua Community Rehabilitation Service
Duration	4 months (with the option to extend)
Sustainable Development Goals	

1. Partner Organisation Overview

Te Vaerua is an NGO established in 2006 to provide rehabilitative services to those in the Cook Islands who have experienced an accident, stroke, disability, or NCD related illness.

Their vision is that all Cook Islanders live healthier lives maximising their functional potential as a result of a disabling condition.

Their goals are to:

- Promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with permanent and temporary disabilities and empower them to make decisions affecting their lives through the provision of and access to rehabilitation services, training and support
- Maximise the person's abilities and independence through diagnosis and treatment, individualised to meet their needs

2. Assignment Overview

Te Vaerua is currently focused on building capacity within their rehabilitation services, using a multidisciplinary approach to train rehabilitation assistants and building the skills and knowledge of staff within leadership positions.

The volunteer selected for this position will work alongside Te Vaerua to support them to:

1. Strengthen support services for physical and holistic health care to people in the community. (Priority 1 Te Vaerua Strategic Plan)
2. Improve the quality of rehabilitative care and resources delivered to people and their families in the community (Priority 2 Te Vaerua Strategic Plan)
3. Assist in improved awareness to target community members (particularly students) who may wish to train in rehabilitation areas, enabling the sustainability of locally based human resources

3. Goal/Outcomes/Outputs

Goal

Te Vaerua staff receive ongoing upskilling and professional development to enable them to provide a high level of rehabilitative services, and the Cook Islands community is supported with group programmes and awareness raising activities.

Outcome 1

Staff at Te Vaerua are upskilled in evidence-based therapy methods and practice, and their professional capacity is developed to enable them to effectively implement these skills to improve rehabilitation clients' physical abilities.

Work alongside the Te Vaerua administrator and Senior Physiotherapist to:

- speak with key staff to ascertain the skills required for the context within which Te Vaerua operates
- assist in the development of a professional development and training programme for staff
- assess the best way to deliver training
- develop and implement group and one-to-one training sessions
- providing ongoing mentoring support

Outcome 2

A community group is formed to support members of the community (and their families) who have experienced a stroke.

- Alongside Te Vaerua staff, engage with community members who have experienced a stroke, and their families, to ascertain what type of group and support they would prefer
- Research similar and established community groups in other locations to ascertain the kinds of support they offer, and in what format
- Work with staff and community members to define the purpose and objectives of the group
- Work with staff to implement the group
- Provide ongoing training and mentoring to staff who will continue to run the group

NB: The success of this group may see the establishment of further groups to support members of the community with other disabilities.

Outcome 3

A programme is established amongst students and others in the Cook Islands community to raise their awareness of future opportunities, study and careers in rehabilitation services.

- Research study and scholarship opportunities for people wishing to study and work in rehabilitative services
- Work with the Te Vaerua staff team to:
 - engage with students who have an interest in the caring and health professions
 - include Te Vaerua as an option for students undertaking work experience
 - include volunteering with Te Vaerua as an option for students engaged in Service Awards such as Duke of Edinburgh
 - include Te Vaerua in future Careers Expos
 - design flyers, posters, brochures and other promotional materials for community and public events, which showcase the opportunities available to those wishing to enter rehabilitative services
 - design social media content to profile the work of a rehabilitative therapist, and the opportunities available to those wishing to enter the profession

4. Reporting, Working Relationships and Capacity Building

The volunteer will report directly to, and will be accountable to, the Senior Physiotherapist and the Administrator. On a day-to-day basis, the volunteer will predominately work with the Senior Physiotherapist, the Rehabilitation Assistants, Te Vaerua staff, and members of the community.

Capacity will be built with the following people:

- Te Vaerua staff
- community members including appropriate health workers
- family members of those who are accessing rehabilitative services
- students

and will take place via:

- Group training sessions
- one to one training
- one to one mentoring

The volunteer and Te Vaerua will have an ongoing relationship with the VSA Programme Manager in terms of assignment monitoring, reporting, professional advice and personal support.

As needs on the ground may change over time, the volunteer is encouraged to review and update the Assignment Description on arrival in consultation with the partner organisation and VSA Programme Manager. By their very nature, development situations can involve significant change, so it is advisable that the volunteer periodically reviews and reflects on the Assignment Description throughout the Assignment to ensure the best development outcomes are being achieved.

5. Selection Criteria/Position Requirements

Professional Specifications

Essential

- Qualified rehabilitation physiotherapist
- Proven experience providing leadership to rehabilitation teams
- Proven experience delivering training and education to staff and community members
- Proven experience working with people who have experienced a stroke, Parkinson's Disease, and other neurological disorders
- Experience working across a broad range of rehabilitation practices

Desirable

- Fundraising and grant proposal experience
- Experience working with dementia patients
- Experience running a health or rehabilitative business

Personal Specifications

Essential

- Flexible
- Good communicator
- Adaptable
- Positive attitude

6. VSA Essential Attributes

- Commitment to volunteering, to VSA and to the partner organisation
- Cross cultural awareness
- Adaptability and a willingness to approach change or newness positively
- Able to form good relationships, both personally and professionally, with work colleagues and in the community
- Resilience and an ability to manage setbacks
- Initiative and resourcefulness
- An ability to facilitate learning through skills exchange

7. Country Context

For more information about the Cook Islands, see:

<https://vsa.org.nz/about/vsa/countryregion/cook-islands>

8. Living and Working Situation

The Te Vaerua centre is a short 30 seconds walk off the main bus route in Nikao district. It is a five minute drive from Avarua.

Describe the workplace e.g., office space, desk, air conditioning, internet access, number of employees etc.

The VSA volunteer would have a shared office space; a laptop and desk; fan; internet access and works with 6 other staff.

9. Additional Information

Residency status

VSA volunteers must be New Zealand citizens or have New Zealand permanent residency status, and currently living in NZ.

Pre-departure briefing

As part of the volunteer's contract, successful candidates will be required to take part in a pre-departure briefing course run by VSA in Wellington and complete all required pre-reading.

Final appointment

Final appointment will be subject to satisfactory medical and immigration clearances (costs covered by VSA), partner organisation acceptance, and successful completion of the pre-departure briefing course.

Family status

VSA is unable to support partners to accompany volunteers on assignments shorter than 6 months.

Fundraising

VSA funding stakeholders are both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and donors. We ask volunteers to fundraise to help cover the cost of sending volunteers throughout the Pacific and beyond. Fundraising can be as simple as doing something you enjoy with a group or friends, and our Fundraising team is available to help you every step of the way.

Vaccination requirements

Potential volunteers are advised that VSA's insurers require volunteers to be vaccinated, prior to departure, in accordance with the instructions of VSA's medical adviser. VSA covers the cost of any required vaccinations.

Children's Act

While on assignment, VSA volunteers may be required to work with children and/or may choose to participate in informal activities in their own time that involve interactions with children (such as coaching teams or teaching English). VSA is committed to the protection of vulnerable children and adults, which also includes meeting our commitment under the Children's Act 2014.

The information requested during the application process is necessary to assist VSA to determine applicant suitability to work and/or interact regularly with children, and is part of a series of pre-selection checks undertaken on all applicants for VSA assignments.

Volunteer package

The volunteer's package includes the following:

Reimbursements and grants

Reimbursements and Grants will be finalised at the time of appointment.

Accommodation

Basic, comfortable furnished accommodation will be sourced by VSA. In some circumstances volunteers may be asked to share accommodation.

Airfares and baggage allowance

VSA will provide the volunteer with economy airfares to and from New Zealand for their assignment plus a baggage allowance.

Insurance

VSA will provide travel insurance to cover baggage and personal property, and non-routine medical expenses for the duration of the assignment. Further details of the insurance cover will be provided during the volunteer pre-departure briefing.

Utilities

VSA will reimburse volunteers reasonable expenses for household utilities while on assignment.

Final terms and conditions relating to the specific volunteer assignment will be confirmed in a personalised volunteer contract.