

Mentorship Guidelines for Sexuality Educators

1. What is Mentorship?

Mentorship is contractual and collaborative. It monitors, develops, and supports sexuality educators in their work. In Mentorship, the central focus is on the safety of the population the educator is working with, as well as the professional development and self-care of the supervisee.

Clinical Mentorship encompasses several components and can include a formal agreement between mentor and supervisee. It is an opportunity for the supervisee to present relevant material with regards to their work via scenarios, handouts, and resources, role plays, and allows a space for reflective review by the supervisee and feedback by the mentor. The mentor relationship and process of Mentorship need to be congruent with the developmental needs of the supervisee.

2. Mentorship

To maintain accreditation status, clinical members must engage in formal Mentorship each year, meeting the below criteria:

- Specialist in education relevant to the populations the member works with
- Specialist in trauma-informed practices
- Formal small group facilitated Mentorship with less than 6 individuals with a designated mentor
- The mentor needs to be approved by the Society of Australian Sexologists Ltd and submit a SAS Mentor Recognition Request Form.

3. Definition of Mentorship Styles

Individual Mentorship

Individual Mentorship refers to clinical Mentorship undertaken by an individual supervisee with a designated mentor. The mentor will most often be a more senior educator or have acquired more experience in a specialist area of practice. Senior practitioners may well choose a mentor of equal experience whereby the Mentorship lends itself as a space for reflection and for gaining alternative perspectives.

Peer Mentorship

Peer Mentorship refers to a reciprocal Mentorship process where peers work together for mutual benefit, rotating the role of mentor. This is a formal process where therapists contract to provide collegial critiquing and enhancement of each other's work. Peer Mentorship can be undertaken as a dyad or within a small group of up to six to ten members.

Group Mentorship

Group Mentorship has a designated mentor who provides Mentorship and facilitates the group Mentorship process. Group Mentorship can be comprised of two to six supervisee members.

4. Mentor Requirements

A mentor may be an experienced, senior practitioner who may be a generalist and not a member of SAS, but who has training in sexuality and works in an educational, therapeutic, or facilitation capacity, can provide appropriate Mentorship for our accredited members. It is acknowledged that delivering sexuality education requires a much broader view than focussing on sexuality alone and that a mentor who is not solely working in sexuality education can often bring a wider perspective to the issue.

Mentorship can also include ethical issues and other professional practice issues that arise for the educator. However, it is expected that the focus of Mentorship will be related to sexuality education for at least 50% of sessions.

Details of any person from whom a member is claiming Mentorship should be stated on the SAS Mentor Recognition Request Form and uploaded to the Mentorship Log area of the Re-accreditation section of your member profile, along with your Mentorship Log. This should include their discipline and academic training, their specific training in human sexuality and sexuality education, or a demonstration of their application to the educator's professional practice.