Audit of ANU Counselling Services - Terms of Reference

Background and Terms of Reference
In light of the Australian Human Rights Commission’s *Changing the course: National report on sexual assault and sexual harassment at Australian universities*, ANU seeks to audit its counselling services to ensure that they are of a high quality, accessible and responsive to student needs. The audit team will examine and make recommendations about the quality and accessibility of the counselling services in relation to the needs of students who have experienced sexual assault or sexual harassment. The audit will consider:

1. The capacity of University counselling services to respond to students’ requests for counselling in a timely and therapeutic manner and whether or not the counselling services are well placed to provide that best practice support for survivors of sexual assault and sexual harassment. It is also important to consider the needs of student from diverse backgrounds, in particular LGBTI students and students from culturally and linguistic diverse backgrounds.
2. How students engage with the counselling services across the student lifecycle.
3. How many university counselling staff have received clinical training in trauma therapy.
4. How many university counselling staff have had experience working with sexual assault survivors.
5. Additionally, how many university counselling staff have had training working with a number of different demographics, for example, LGBTIQ and students from culturally and linguistic diverse backgrounds.
6. The implications of providing therapeutic engagement with students’ seeking counselling and the capacity to provide session regularity, frequency and duration of counselling treatment interventions that are based on clinical best practice.

In undertaking the audit, the audit team will assess data on

1. the average length of time students (both new and returning clients) are required to wait to see a university counsellor
2. the issue the client has raised eg. sexual assault, sexual harassment, sexual violence (domestic violence)
3. the client outcomes including data on therapeutic outcomes from the client and counsellor perspective as well as annual benchmarking outcomes relating to the service
4. the number of same day requests for counselling received.

In considering this data, the audit panel will advise on whether additional services are needed and what the nature of these services should be. The audit panel should examine the additional services currently being provided by the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre staff and any other counselling services on campus.