



POSITION DESCRIPTION – DFV Child & Youth Counsellor

Program Area: Gympie Region Domestic & Family Violence Service

Remuneration: SCHCADS Award - level 5, salary packaging options and flexible working arrangements available

Location: Gympie

ABOUT US:

Vision: A safe, inclusive and thriving community.

Purpose: Empower people to live safe, fulfilling lives through high quality community-based services.

Values:

- **Excellence** - Strive for high standards in everything we do.
- **Respect** - Value the dignity, rights and perspectives of others.
- **Integrity** - Act with honesty and transparency in all interactions.
- **Inclusivity** - Embrace diversity and ensure equal opportunity for all.

For more information about the organisation, refer to our website: www.communityactiongympie.com.au

PRACTICE FRAMEWORK:

Human Rights: We are committed to fostering a workplace environment that is consistent with human rights – free of discrimination and harassment, where all individuals are treated with respect and dignity, can contribute fully, and have equal opportunity. The *Human Rights Act (Qld) 2019* is important to our organisation because it protects the rights of vulnerable community members. We support a human rights culture within our organisation, and across communities in Queensland.

Diversity & Inclusion: We recognise, respect, promote and celebrate the value of diversity and adopt and implement inclusive policies and strategies which advance diversity as a positive influence across the organisation. We:

- Acknowledge and respect the traditional owners of the land – Indigenous Australians.
- Recognise and value the multicultural nature of Australian society and our community.
- Promote and encourage a diverse and inclusive work environment by fostering an environment of mutual learning, respect, dignity, openness to other cultures and an appreciation of difference and other perspectives.
- Attract and retain a board of management whose composition reflects a diversity of backgrounds, knowledge, experience and abilities.
- Seek to ensure that business practices, systems and processes do not prevent people from diverse backgrounds having equality of opportunity within the organisation and as far as is reasonably practicable, provide culturally appropriate support services for Australian Indigenous and cultural and linguistically diverse (CALD) clients.
- Educate staff so that they are capable of responding sensitively, sympathetically and justly in any context.
- Attempt to redress any unfair, discriminatory or illegal practices.
- Promote activities which celebrate the diversity of our community.

Domestic & Family Violence: We recognise that domestic and family violence is a gendered issue, and that gender inequality is a predominate cause and consequence of domestic and family violence. Domestic and family violence can have lifelong impacts on children and young people who witness and experience violence and significantly impact the relationships between parent, child and community. We operate from a framework that:

- Understands the dynamics of gender, power and control
- Understands the impacts on children and young people
- Is culturally safe
- Is risk focussed
- Is informed by trauma frameworks and attachment theories

Child Protection: We are a child friendly organisation, committed to protecting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people from harm and all forms of abuse including physical abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, neglect, sexual abuse and exploitation. Our child protection framework is founded on the international human rights treaty on children's rights – the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. We have adopted a strengths-based approach to uphold these rights. We are sensitive to cultural diversity while recognising that the child's right to be protected from harm is paramount. We acknowledge the vulnerability of children who enter our services and believe that every child/young person has the right to feel safe and to be protected from all forms of harm.

Trauma Informed Practice: We recognise that trauma is an almost universal experience across our client groups and the need to address it is essential for growth and recovery. Our approach recognises and acknowledges trauma and its prevalence, alongside awareness and sensitivity to its dynamics, in all aspects of service delivery. Our framework is strengths-based which embraces a message of hope and optimism that recovery is possible, and is founded on the following principles:

- Safety
- Trustworthiness
- Choice
- Collaboration
- Empowerment
- Respect for diversity

POSITION SUMMARY:

The DFV Child & Youth Counsellor is responsible for providing counselling and support to children and young people who are experiencing, or who have experienced, domestic and family violence (DFV). The success of the program is dependent on a highly collaborative working relationship between the other Community Action DFV programs, external DFV service providers including the Qld Police Service and Child Safety.

This position requires work that can be emotionally demanding, including work that requires a high level of emotional involvement, work that requires the employee to regulate their emotions, and work that is emotionally disturbing through exposure to other people's trauma.

Key challenges of the role includes:

- Working with people with varying degrees of trauma background and/or barriers which may result in signs and symptoms which may include frustration, distress, and elevated behaviour responses (including verbal or physical).
- Working with people who may be under the influence of substances which may result in signs and symptoms which may include frustration, distress, and elevated behaviour responses (including verbal or physical).
- Ability to negotiate with emotionally heightened people, including high level de-escalation skills and advocate on their behalf with services that may not have capacity to assist due to limited resources.
- Exposure to distressing or sensitive information with resulting potential for vicarious trauma and/or compassion fatigue.
- Managing a heavy workload with tight deadlines and competing commitments and priorities which require negotiating and re-prioritising own work.
- Ability to perform physical activities for a sustained period. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Sitting and standing to perform tasks,
 - Twisting, bending, squatting and kneeling,
 - Lifting, carrying and reaching (overhead/forward extension),
 - Pushing and pulling towards and away from the body,
 - Workstation tasks (including use of computers, laptops, iPads and keyboards),
 - Driving – controlling and operation of a vehicle/foot and hand controls.
- Biological hazards – contact with body fluids, bacteria, infectious diseases.

Alongside your workplace health and safety responsibilities, Community Action's Employee Health and Wellbeing Strategy provides a range of support options and initiatives to benefit the wellbeing of employees.

REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

The staff member is responsible to and reports directly to the GRDFVS Team Leader Child & Youth and the GRDFVS Manager. In view of the collaborative nature of the organisation, all staff members are also accountable to the General Manager, Operations Manager, board of management and the broader staff team.

KEY DUTY STATEMENT:

1. Working within the organisation:

No:	Specific Duties	Key Performance Indicators
1.1	Comply with Community Action's Code of Conduct and Policies and Procedures; and, remain conscious of and responsible for your own impact on your work environment and those around you.	Code of Conduct and Policies and Procedures are adhered to.
1.2	Foster workplace diversity, value individual differences and recognise the positive benefits that can be gained.	Feedback from team members and management.
1.3	Ensure sound knowledge of the purpose and desired outcomes of the Gympie Region Domestic & Family Violence Service; DFV Support Services Program Guidelines and Investment Specifications; DFV Services Practice Principles, Standards & Guidance; Embedded DFV Specialist Practitioner Model; Common Risk & Safety Framework (CRASF); DFV and Child Protection Information Sharing Guidelines; DFV legislation and other statutory requirements.	Duties are carried out within program funding guidelines and within statutory guidelines. Service delivery aligns with the relevant practice standards, frameworks and information sharing guidelines. Client-centred and trauma-informed practice is imbedded in client work.
1.4	Participate in the development of a safe and supportive working environment for all staff, including clear communication paths and consultative decision-making practices.	WHS policy and procedure are followed. Staff communication policy and procedure are followed.
1.5	Participate in regular and ongoing consultation with staff and the Service Manager to discuss issues that may impact on work practices and professional development in relation to direct work with clients and organisational practices.	Feedback from Manager and team members.
1.6	Participate in support systems within the organisation including staff meetings, team supervision, line supervision, staff appraisals, team development days and professional supervision.	Meetings and supervision are attended. Team development days are attended.
1.7	Assist in ensuring that the office environment is maintained in a clean, tidy and safe manner and that information and resources are relevant, up-to-date and available.	Office space is inviting & tidy with relevant resources available. Staff member has a sound knowledge base of resources available.
1.8	Establish and maintain collaborative working relationships with all other Community Action program personnel.	Team member feedback.
1.9	Participate in continuous quality improvement by identifying opportunities for improvement to systems, processes and work practices.	Manager feedback
1.10	Other duties as required by the Manager.	Requests are carried out.

2. Provide counselling and support to children and young people experiencing, or who have experienced, DFV:

No:	Specific Duties	Key Performance Indicators
2.1	Provide age appropriate counselling and support (including group work where appropriate) to children and young people using a range of therapeutic practices including, but not limited to, trauma informed and strengths based practices. (Support clients to express their feelings and to understand and manage their fears, emotions and behaviours).	Funded outputs/targets are met. Number of clients receiving counselling/support services. Client satisfaction feedback. Number of groups facilitated (where appropriate).
2.2	Work within a Case Management Framework according to policy and procedure including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Eligibility Assessment & Intake • Needs Assessment • Case Planning, monitoring & review • Exit planning • Follow up of exited clients 	Client Service Delivery Policy is followed. Clients have clearly documented and accurate assessments & intakes, needs assessments, safety plans and case plans, case plans are monitored and reviewed within policy timeframes, planning for exit and follow up is documented and carried out.
2.3	Provide age appropriate intervention to assist children to manage risk, cope with crises, plan for safety and/or develop strategies to enhance safety and wellbeing.	Intervention prioritises the client's safety and need for protection. A comprehensive risk assessment is carried out for all clients.
2.4	Work together with children and their caregiver (where appropriate) to respond to parenting issues.	Number of caregivers receiving support with parenting issues.
2.5	Provide information, support and referrals to caregivers, with a specific focus on the needs of children and young people.	Number of caregivers receiving information, support, referral.
2.6	Work together with the DFV Counsellors to provide a service across the townships in the broader Gympie Region.	Number of outreach sessions provided. Feedback from stakeholders.
2.7	Coordinate the range of supports needed to effect meaningful change.	Client outcomes feedback.
2.8	Ensure cultural appropriateness of services for clients.	Feedback from clients and other staff members.
2.9	Keep full, accurate and up-to-date case management records/client files.	Client records are accurate and up-to-date.
2.10	Keep accurate and up-to-date data collection as required by the GRDFVS Manager and program/funding guidelines.	Data collection is accurate, up-to-date and submitted on-time/when requested.
2.11	Establish and maintain collaborative working relationships with local government and non-government service providers, support agencies and other relevant stakeholders.	Stakeholder feedback.
2.12	Be available to provide some after-hours service delivery where there is an identified need.	Client feedback. Number of after-hours appointments.

3. Domestic and family violence education and prevention:

No:	Specific Duties	Key Performance Indicators
3.1	When opportunities arise, be available to speak to community groups, schools etc about DFV and the work of Community Action DFV Support Services.	Community Feedback.
3.2	Work in collaboration with the broader Community Action DFV Support Service	Participation in stakeholder meetings.

	team, in particular, the DFV Community Partnerships Facilitator, and external stakeholders, to assist in developing a Gympie Region DFV Prevention Strategy and implement a coordinated community response to DFV.	
3.3	Participate in relevant local network meetings and other community DFV education and prevention events and activities.	Attendance at network meetings. Attendance at community education and prevention events and activities.

PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL:

This position is subject to a 6-month probationary appraisal (unless probation has already been served – refer to employment contract for further information).

The staff member will participate in annual appraisals of work performance conducted with the Operations Manager and the organisations HR representative to assess the:

- Competence of the employee in the performance of duties
- Achievement of goals set for the position
- To establish general and training goals for the next 12 months.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

Essential:

- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the impacts of DFV on children and young people (and their relationships with family) and the ability to respond effectively in a sensitive and confidential manner.
- Demonstrated understanding of safety issues for children and young people affected by DFV, and staff assisting them.
- Demonstrated knowledge of the relevant legal processes and legislation relevant to DFV, including family law processes.
- Demonstrated understanding of the social, political and gendered nature of DFV from a feminist perspective.
- Demonstrated ability to work within a case management framework.
- Demonstrated interest and experience in group work and psycho-education.
- High level skills in crisis intervention and assessment interviewing.
- Ability to work in a community-based organisation, to participate within a staff team in a collaborative and supportive manner, and the capacity to work both independently and as part of a team.

Desirable:

- Relevant tertiary qualifications in the human services field eg. Bachelor Psychology, Bachelor Counselling, Bachelor Human Services/Social Work majoring in Counselling or similar.
- A knowledge and understanding of trauma informed practice.
- Demonstrated experience counselling children and young people.

Personal Attributes:

- Alignment to the values and practice framework of the organisation.
- High level of professionalism, confidentiality and discretion.
- Well developed interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to work cross-culturally.
- Capacity to cope with people in distress and people presenting with complex and challenging behaviours.
- Positive and collaborative team player.
- Adaptability and flexibility to changing work environments and requirements.

Mandatory Requirements:

- Current Driver’s licence.
- The applicant must be a holder of a current Blue Card for child related employment.
- Eligibility to work in Australia.

EMPLOYEE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

I {insert employee name} have read and understood my responsibilities under this position description and will carry out my duties accordingly.

Signature:

Date: