



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

*STARTTS is committed to Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and anti-discrimination policies.*

**POSITION NUMBER: 1164-3**

**Date reviewed/created: July 2020**

**POSITION TITLE: Bi-Cultural Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Project Officer (Tamil Speaking**

**TEAM:** Community Development

**LOCATION:** Auburn

**AGREEMENT:** "NSW (Non-Declared) Affiliated Health Organisations' Professional and Associated Staff Agreement".

**CLASSIFICATION:** Health Education Officer, or other relevant classification based on qualifications, experience and requirements of the role.

A generous salary packaging scheme is also offered.

**PERIOD OF APPRAISAL:** Performance will be assessed within 6 months of commencement and a 6 month probationary/qualifying period will also apply.

### Background to STARTTS

STARTTS is a state-wide service funded by the NSW Department of Health and Commonwealth Department of Health to provide high quality assessment, treatment and rehabilitation services to people living in NSW who have experienced organised violence or trauma associated with the refugee experience. STARTTS is an Affiliated Health Organisation (AHO), a Non-Government Organisation whose services are deemed to be part of the NSW public health system.

STARTTS' service provision philosophy is predicated on a bio-psycho-social framework that incorporates a large range of clinical and psycho-social interventions informed by the latest advances in neuroscience and evidence based practice in relevant fields. As such, STARTTS provides a broad range of services including assessment; counselling for all age groups; psychiatric assessment and interventions; family therapy; group interventions; body-focused interventions such as massage, physiotherapy, acupuncture and pain management groups; support groups; programs for children and youth; and various strategies to increase the capacity of support networks and refugee communities to sustain their members.

The focus of the STARTTS' approach is on building capacity and empowering people and communities to take control over their own lives, using a strengths-based approach and building on individual, family, community and cultural strengths.

### Background to the Program Area of the position

The Community Services Team covers a wide range of services for refugee individuals, families and communities. The team is managed by the Community Services Coordinator and it consists of 4 smaller teams (School Liaison, Youth, Community Development and FICT) and the following positions: CD Evaluation Officer; Grants, Tenders and Fundraising Officer; CiCT Project Officer; Community Cultural Development Officer and CD Policy officer. The Community Services Team is integral to the STARTTS systemic approach to recovery of torture and trauma survivors.

### ORGANISATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS:

1. Responsible to: Community Development Team Leader
2. Responsible for: Nil

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## **SELECTION CRITERIA:**

### **Essential Criteria:**

1. Qualifications or significant experience in psychology, social work, community development, social science, counselling, groupwork or other relevant discipline.
2. Demonstrated experience in planning, implementing and evaluating groups in a cross-cultural context.
3. Demonstrated understanding of the effects of torture and trauma on individuals, families, and communities and its impact on resettlement in Australian context.
4. Demonstrated adult education and/or training skills.
5. Excellent understanding of the needs and issues faced by Tamil community settling in NSW.
6. Well-developed communication and interpersonal skills in English and Tamil.
7. Experience in working with Tamil community development and/or groupwork setting.
8. Knowledge of appropriate mental health literacy interventions and suicide prevention frameworks and strategies.

### **Desirable Criteria:**

1. Knowledge of stakeholders in refugee/migrant/Mental Health sector.
2. Current NSW Driver's license.

\*This position is considered child-related employment and will require a Working with Children Background Check and a National Criminal Record Check.

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## **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ROLE**

This position will be working within STARTTS Community Services Team to work with support structures in the community to increase capacity of community leaders, peer educators and community support structures to identify and support people at risk of suicide or serious mental health illness, and make appropriate referrals. The position will deliver psycho-education and lifestyle/wellbeing group interventions to enable Tamil community members better identify signs of distress in themselves and develop appropriate coping strategies, develop mutually supportive relationships, break social isolation, reduce stigma associated with seeking mental health assistance, increase knowledge and access to a variety of mental health services.

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## **PRIMARY OBJECTIVES:**

1. To enhance health, social connections and wellbeing of Tamil community members thus increasing the protective factors in the area of suicide prevention.
2. To enhance the capacity of Tamil community leaders to assist the community members and make appropriate referrals to relevant mental health services.
3. To enhance capacity of Tamil community leaders to engage with the mental health system and promote mutual learning between mental health services and Tamil community.

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## **PRIMARY DUTIES:**

### **1. Groupwork**

- 1.1. Work with relevant STARTTS staff to identify appropriate groupwork interventions for people from Tamil community. Participate in planning, delivery and evaluation of at least 2 groups for the duration of the project. The groups are intended to enhance Tamil community members' health, wellbeing and community connections.
- 1.2. Undertake relevant groupwork training.
- 1.3. Provide limited accidental counselling and casework to the group members.

## **2. Community Development, Community Education and Social Support**

- 2.1. In collaboration with other STARTTS staff, organise 4 Accidental Counsellor Training sessions for Tamil community and peer leaders for the duration of the project. Co-deliver the sessions if required.
- 2.2. In collaboration with other STARTTS staff, organise 4 Suicide Prevention Training sessions for Tamil community for the duration of the project.
- 2.3. In collaboration with other STARTTS Bi-Cultural Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Project Officers, organise one Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Awareness Day.
- 2.4. Support the work of Tamil community mental health and suicide prevention working party that includes Tamil leaders/elders/volunteers, and relevant mental health services.
- 2.5. Assist STARTTS staff to develop psychoeducation materials for Tamil community.

## **3. Training and Supervision**

- 3.1. Undertake on-the-job training where relevant.
- 3.2. Participate in community development mentoring.
- 3.3. Participate in regular STARTTS staff development days.
- 3.4. Participate in group co-facilitation where appropriate.
- 3.5. Undertake comprehensive STARTTS induction program.

## **4. Reporting**

- 4.1. Provide bi-monthly progress reports to the Team Leader.
- 4.2. Prepare other reports as required.

## **5. Personnel**

- 5.1. Participate in STARTTS Performance Management program and in the development of an annual Work Plan.
- 5.2. Be an active participant in team meetings to maximise contribution to the work of the team
- 5.3. Participate in STARTTS staff meetings and other relevant meetings
- 5.4. Work to ensure professional and co-operative working relationships within own team and with other departments across STARTTS.
- 5.5. Participate in identifying quality improvement initiatives/strategies.
- 5.6. Attend and participate in all training opportunities identified for the role.
- 5.7. Liaise with and seek senior advice as required.

## **6. As a STARTTS employee you are expected to:**

- Have commitment to Human Rights, EEO, WHS and Safe Work Practices.
- Carry out the role and responsibilities in a manner that is consistent with delegations, policies, procedures and operations systems of STARTTS and in line with STARTTS Code of Conduct.
- Maintain confidentiality and exercise discretion in relation to all STARTTS matters.
- Actively seek to improve skills and knowledge that will benefit the organisation.
- Project a professional image at all times and in all situations.
- Undertake any other duties that may be required within the area of work.

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## **Equal Employment Opportunity and Staff Relationships:**

- STARTTS is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) employer and encompasses its philosophy and practice.
  - STARTTS rejects racism and sexism in all its forms and is committed to the elimination of racial and gender discrimination including direct and indirect racism and sexism, racial vilification, and harassment.
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## STARTTS Workplace Policies

You must observe and comply with the provisions set out in any and all written policy, practice or procedure of STARTTS. A breach of STARTTS' policies, practices and procedures may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of your employment.

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### Work Health & Safety responsibilities:

- Comply with STARTTS WHS policies and procedures.
- Work with due care and consideration to safeguard your own health and safety and the health and safety of others, and to report to your Supervisor any potential hazards, mishaps, incidents or injuries that may occur or become aware of during the course of work.

**Risk management responsibilities:** All staff have a responsibility to identify any risks (i.e. the chance of something happening that will have an impact on the objectives of the organisation) in the course of their work and to inform their supervisor, as per the *STARTTS Risk Management Policy and Program*.

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### Smoke-free Workplace

STARTTS is completely smoke-free. This means that smoking is not allowed in any STARTTS' buildings, vehicles or grounds, there are no designated smoking areas. As an employee you are required to comply with the 'Non-smoking' Policy.

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I have read the **Bi-Cultural Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Project Officer (Tamil Speaking)** Position Description, understand its contents and agree to work in accordance with the requirements of the position. I understand and accept that I must also comply with STARTTS' policies and procedures and can be required to work in any location under the jurisdiction of STARTTS.

I also agree to strictly observe STARTTS' policy on confidentiality of client information or such other sensitive or confidential information that I may come across in the course of my employment.

Employee Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please print*

**Employee**  
**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Jorge Aroche**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_