

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title	Senior Family Preservation and Reunification (FPR) Practitioner
Department	Social Work – Child and Family Services
Responsible to	FPR Team Manager/ State Operations Manager
Responsible for (if applicable)	FPR Practitioners

Overall Purpose and Aim of Role/s:

The Family Preservation and reunification response is an integral component of the Victorian Government reform and service system improvement. The new whole-of-system model and redesign for the children and family systems will reorient the child and family system towards earlier intervention and prevention to reduce and prevent risk to children, build family capability and improve child and family outcomes. The FPR senior practitioners will work with the FPR Team to provide intensive supports to families, work alongside Child protection and Ramahyuck in a collaborative practice model. The families receiving the service will be unborn notifications, children aged 1-5 and 10-15. Reunification is a key feature to support families where children are in out of home care for short periods to return to safe families.

The aim of this role is to promote the wellbeing of vulnerable children and young people by supporting and building the capacity of those adults responsible for their care. Key Assets Victoria supports children and young people in foster care and works with vulnerable families whose children and young people are at risk of entering foster care. Key Assets Social Work practice is structured and guided by our Key Assets Practice Framework which is founded on principles of respect, open and transparent relationships, community development and change management. The Senior FPR Practitioner will work alongside Ramahyuck in the provision of the Response to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; and provide supervision to the FPR Practitioners, .

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CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

Family Preservation and Reunification Response

- To implement the Family Preservation and Reunification (FPR) Response including the Working With Families Key to Care Framework along with the common elements approach to deliver high quality services to vulnerable families in Inner Gippsland.
- Provide a specialist response to priority cohorts, including response to infants, young children and adolescents, people with disabilities, and /or people experiencing family violence.
- Have extensive experience and comprehensive understanding of Child and Family Service, Child Protection and Court Orders, inserted in to Person Specification table
- Conduct needs/risk/safety assessments, and develop time limited intensive intervention goals with families, ensuring the highest possible transparency with children, young people and family in their homes and within an assertive outreach model.

- Understand trauma and how it impacts children and families inserted in to Person Specification table
- Provide a culturally competent service and respect Aboriginal children and families right to self-determination
- Using the Key to Care Framework, work collaboratively with families to identify goals and develop and implement therapeutic plans in their own homes
- In accordance with the families goals, improve the parent(s) skills in parenting their children safely by providing, counselling, crisis intervention, psychoeducation, group work and practical support to families, paying particular attention to impacts of parental drug use, mental health problems, family violence, child abuse and neglect.
- Undertake a respectful, solutions focussed approach to working with families while being open about risks, strategies to reduce risk and expectations in relation to parenting that promotes the wellbeing of children, young people using the Key to Care Framework.
- Develop and coordinate service network response for individual families to ensure tailored and effective intervention dependent on assessed support needs and identified family goals.
- Develop and facilitate Key Care Team meetings and work closely with Child Protection services in relation to the monitoring of risk and individual outcomes reporting.
- Provide family advocacy as required and ensure brokerage dollars are appropriately expended to achieve maximum impact.
- Ensure that the protection of children and the promotion of their welfare is given absolute priority in all activities and that critical incidents/allegations/disclosures are recorded, investigated and acted upon appropriately and in keeping with Key Assets and the public sector Child Safety procedures.
- Ensure children and young people know how they can raise concerns.
- Work with evidence informed practice and evidence based programs to identify any needs of the children, young people and families to increase resilience.
- Monitor program performance and outcomes through collection and analysis of operational data, and participate in continuous quality improvement.
- Lead reflective practice and professional development and collaborate with Key Assets Practice leads

General

- Ensure all funding requirements, KPI's and referral / placement targets for the team are met and take and take a lead role in responding to crises.
- Ensure all programmatic, policy and practice requirements are met at a team level.
- Ensure program quality is maintained by participating in internal audit, critical incident and complaints management process as required.
- Ensuring positive and open communication with the Departmental staff by the position holder and the team.

- Support and coaching team members including conducting joint visits as required.
- Ensuring all requirements of the Key to Care Framework, Common Elements approach and service model are being implemented as intended within the team.
- Participation in state and national Key to Care Framework activities including training, peer support and coaching.
- May be required to deputise for the Team Manager/Program Manager.
- Ensure compliance with both Key Assets and Child Safety Legislation, Policy and Procedures.
- Ensure strict adherence to confidentiality and privacy, critical incident and mandatory reporting requirements.
- To engage in professional supervision, support and coaching and take active role in professional development and performance review processes.
- Establish and maintain appropriate professional records, ensuring relevant and contemporaneous documentation in accordance with Key Assets Policy and Departmental expectations.
- This position will require you to work flexibly and will include hours that fall outside of core business hours.
- Participate in the Key Assets on call services back up roster requiring after hours response to any client.
- Adhere to the requirements and standards regarding safety planning for COVID-19

The role will involve frequent travel within the Inner Gippsland Area and at times across Victoria and may include stays away from home.

Additional Duties

- The post holder will be expected to demonstrate a commitment to Key Assets' Purpose and Pledges.
- The post holder will be expected to undertake any training and development deemed necessary for the pursuance of the post.
- The post holder will be expected to reach a minimum basic standard of I.T. competence to be able to use Company electronic systems effectively
- The post holder will be expected to ensure compliance with Equal Opportunities Policy and Procedure in all employment practices.
- The post holder will be expected to work in a manner which is inclusive of all employees and stakeholders, which includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander's, people who identify as LGBTI, people of all ages, people with disability and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- The post holder will be expected to comply with the no smoking policy in place and ensure that Health and Safety is observed in the course of employment
- Ensuring compliance with safeguarding procedures, throughout all work within the Company, keeping Senior Management informed of work in progress and inform Senior Management immediately of any child protection matter or serious complaint.

It is the nature of work of the post that tasks and responsibilities are, in many circumstances, unpredictable and varied. All staff are, therefore, expected to work in a flexible way when the occasion arises where tasks are not specifically covered in the Job Description and have to be undertaken.

Signed by Job Holder:	
Print Name:	
Date:	

Key Assets makes use of the National Federal Police Criminal Records and local State and Territory Working with Children checking services, which facilitates the checking of individuals' criminal records by employers where such individuals are to occupy 'positions of trust'. You may be required to consent to and apply for disclosures at regular intervals during your employment in this post and any offer of employment is provisional and conditional on the satisfactory outcome of the check. This is because this role involves access to sensitive data.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Senior Family Preservation and Reunification (FPR) Practitioner

Note to Applicant: When completing your application form you should demonstrate the extent to which you have the necessary education, experience, knowledge and skills identified for the post.

Key: Assessed by Application Form: **A**
 Assessed at Interview: **I**
 Assessed by Test/ Exercise (if applicable) **T**
 Assessed by Documentary Evidence **D**

	<u>Essential/ Desirable</u>	<u>Shortlisted Criteria</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>D</u>
Education/ Qualifications						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must hold recognised Social Work Qualification, if qualification is from overseas then proof of validation by the AASW required. Qualification in Psychology, Counselling, Behavioural Science or other relevant degree may be considered. 	Essential	✓	✓	✓		✓
Experience/ Training						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-qualification experience in Child and Family work 	Essential	✓	✓	✓		✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A proven track record in working with and or on behalf of children, young people and families, respecting and maintaining their individuality and promoting their positive development 	Essential	✓	✓	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have extensive experience and comprehensive understanding of Child and Family Service, Child Protection and Court Orders, 						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience in undertaking comprehensive assessments to develop, implement, monitor and review service delivery and support plans 	Essential	✓	✓	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience in assessing parenting capacity 	Essential		✓	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience in supporting families in their own homes. 	Desirable		✓	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience in working with family/kin to prevent Out of Home Care placements and restoring children/young people back to family/kin 	Desirable		✓	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience in conducting risk assessments and developing safety plans. 	Essential	✓	✓	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent report writing skills 	Essential			✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience working with resistant clients 	Essential	✓	✓	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A basic understanding of IT 	Essential		✓	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrated experience of working across multiple databases and systems 	Essential		✓	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience of working with evidence informed and evidence based programs 	Desirable		✓	✓		
Knowledge						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A good working knowledge of relevant Acts, legislation, procedures and Standards relating to child protection and out of home care 	Essential	✓	✓	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An understanding of the role of Child Protection Services 	Essential		✓	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of the role of other agencies in particular, Health and Education 	Essential		✓	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of the growth and development of children 	Essential		✓	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand trauma and how it impacts children and families 	Essential	✓	✓	✓		

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Personal Qualities						
• Values consistent with those expressed by Key Assets and an ability to work within our Practice Frameworks.	Essential	✓	✓	✓		
• Ability to communicate simply and effectively, both verbal and written, recognising potential language barriers and cultural differences	Essential	✓	✓	✓		
• Tenacious, diligent and resilient with the ability to adopt a creative approach to problem solving in a fast paced environment	Essential		✓	✓		
• Ability to work in partnership with Child Safety Services	Essential		✓	✓		
• Keen eye for detail and ability to work with a number of different terms, conditions and processes simultaneously	Essential		✓	✓		
• Ability to think quickly and act appropriately to business need	Essential		✓	✓		
• Ability to work respectfully in partnership with internal and external departments, agents/consultants and other stakeholders	Essential			✓		
• Ability to work with a degree of autonomy , in a flexible and creative manner, within the agency's policies and procedures	Essential			✓		
• Reliability, flexibility and dependability	Essential			✓		
• Ability to maintain confidentiality	Essential	✓	✓	✓		
• Ability to work under pressure and handle changing priorities	Essential		✓	✓		
• Ability to work with others in remote locations	Essential		✓	✓		
Miscellaneous						
• A commitment to Equal Opportunities and OH&S in all work practices	Essential		✓	✓		
• A comprehensive working knowledge of all relevant legislation pertaining to children's services as well as publications which inform current thinking regarding best practice and the Safeguarding of children	Essential		✓	✓		
• A commitment to diversity and social inclusion which includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander's, people who identify as LGBTI, people of all ages, people with disability and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds	Essential		✓	✓		
• A commitment to providing a professional and quality service	Essential			✓		
• Ability and willingness to travel , including occasional nights away	Essential			✓		
• Ability and willingness to participate in a 24/7 On Call duty roster as required	Essential			✓		
• Must possess a full current driving license relevant to the state this role is based (**a Company car will be provided for this role)	Essential	✓	✓			✓
• Willingness to undertake relevant statutory and personal reference checks	Essential			✓		
• Be prepared to seek advice where necessary	Essential			✓		