



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position	Child FIRST Aboriginal Liaison Worker
Reports to	Team Leader Family Services
Direct Reports	NA
Status	Full time (38 hrs pw) - 12 months contract
Location	Based at the Melton office and will regularly travel to the Werribee office

BACKGROUND

The Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) is the largest organization of its kind in Australia. VACCA is an Aboriginal community-controlled organization that supports and advocates for the Aboriginal community. Our strength lies with our people. Our team is committed to the organisation's vision and values; advocates for our children and other vulnerable community members; and shows respect for, observance and compliance with Aboriginal cultural protocols, practice and ceremony. Our Aboriginality is what distinguishes us from mainstream services and what enables us to deliver the positive outcomes we achieve for our people.

VACCA employs over 600 staff and delivers more than 70 programs across the state. VACCA's experience and expertise in the delivery of therapeutic interventions are underpinned by culture, connection, and healing. VACCA designs, develops and delivers programs with self-determination and an understanding that the intergenerational trauma experienced by our community requires intergenerational and community healing.

Central to VACCA's work is the importance of connection to family, community and culture as essential to Aboriginal children's safety, stability and ensuring that they have an ongoing sense of belonging. As Victoria's largest Aboriginal child welfare agency, VACCA will play a key role in the process of transitioning the care and case management of Aboriginal children from government and non-Aboriginal organisations to Aboriginal community-controlled organisations following the recent decision of the Victorian Government.

VACCA is implementing cultural therapeutic ways which is an agency wide framework that underpins our work with the community, our clients and staff.

OUR VISION

Aboriginal self-determination - Live, Experience and Be.

OUR PURPOSE

Supporting culturally strong, safe and thriving Aboriginal communities.



PROGRAM AREA

The Early Years and Family Support Programs within VACCA provide a range of programs for Aboriginal families. Our Program currently offers Aboriginal families interventions across a continuum of support ranging from early

This position sits within the Family Support Team and works in line with an integrated model of service delivery.

Changes to the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 provided a new legislative basis for the provision of services to vulnerable children, young people and their families. The changes enacted from the 1st of April 2007. A central feature of the legislation is the establishment of new community based referral mechanisms and arrangements for families. These intake points are called Child FIRST.

The core purpose of Child FIRST will be to provide a clearly visible and accessible entry into Family Services within each catchment to provide effective service responses for vulnerable children, and families. CHILD FIRST Alliances, comprising all funded Family Support agencies in the catchment area and chaired by a Lead Family Support Agency were established in each of the 17 catchment areas.

The Act provides additional principles to provide a stronger basis for ensuring that Aboriginal children, remain within, or connected to their community.

Western VACCA is a member of both the Brimbank Melton and Western Melbourne CHILD FIRST Alliances. We attend regular Operations and Executive meetings of each Alliance.

POSITION SUMMARY

This position will play a key role in ensuring that service provision by Child FIRST is culturally responsive to Aboriginal families. Two mornings a week, this position will be based with the Child FIRST Team at Mackillop Family Services (Melton) and Anglicare (Yarraville) and will be involved in providing consultation and assessment to the CHILD FIRST Intake Teams in relation to Aboriginal families that are referred.

This position will also be involved in undertaking Assessments of families referred to VACCA and in formulating relevant and effective service plans. Community education and networking responsibilities are also important components of the job.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Internal: Lakidjeka ACSASS team, Integrated Family Support program, Aboriginal Cradle to Kinder program, Family Violence Program

External: Anglicare as the lead for the Western Melbourne CHILD FIRST Alliance; Mackillop Family Services as the lead for the Brimbank Melton CHILD FIRST Alliance; Community Based Child Protection workers, DHHS; The Western Gathering Place; Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation; Wyndham Aboriginal Community Centre Committee; KESOs; local Councils, Maternal and Child Health Service

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

- Demonstrated understanding of, and commitment to, the values that underpin VACCA's vision and purpose and the capacity to take a leadership role in championing these internally and externally



- Demonstrated awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal societies and cultures, and commitment to continually build knowledge of such, along with a high level of awareness of the key issues which impact upon Aboriginal communities
- A sound knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal culture and values and a proven ability to effectively communicate with Aboriginal people.
- An understanding of Family Support Services and different models of intervention
- Knowledge and understanding of Intake processes and assessment of risk.
- Ability to liaise with government and non-government agencies.
- Ability to advocate on behalf of children and families.
- Proven experience in case management tasks, such as assessments, referrals, case planning and case closure.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to write reports, case notes and record keeping skills.
- Computer skills.
- Current Victorian driver's licence.
- Experience in electronic filing [IRIS Data Base]

REQUIREMENTS

- You must have and continue to hold a full Victorian Driver's Licence and a current employment working with children check card.

POSITION ACCOUNTABILITIES

- To provide consultation and advice to Child FIRST Intake Teams regarding Aboriginal families referred through that Intake point.
- To undertake assessments of Aboriginal families referred to Child FIRST
- Supporting the Child FIRST Team in ensuring that their work with Aboriginal families is culturally responsive.
- To support and inform Aboriginal families referred to Child FIRST throughout their involvement with Child FIRST
- To assist Aboriginal families engage with mainstream service providers
- To provide consultation and advice to Mainstream organizations in working with Aboriginal families.
- To be responsible for undertaking an Assessment of families referred to Integrated Family Support Program.
- To engage with families using an assertive outreach approach.
- Limited direct provision of in home support to families and some casework.
- Ensuring families receive coordinated and integrated support. This may require Case Management for some families for a limited period of time.
- Prepare reports and ensure data monitoring is completed in a timely manner
- Networking and promoting Programs with other Community Sector Organisations and Government Departments.
- Liaise closely with Community Based Child Protection worker(s) and member agencies around management of risk to children and safety planning for clients
- Coordinate liaison meetings with the other programs within VACCA as well as Inter-Agency when necessary.
- Represent the Programs and Agency at relevant Aboriginal community meetings, seminars, forums and conferences.



- To ensure the cultural appropriateness of programs being implemented.
- Involvement in Program planning, statistical monitoring, reporting and evaluation.
- Participate in training programs and in supervision.
- In this current time, participate in meetings in accordance to your role across the appropriate IT platforms nominated by the services.
- Other duties in accordance with an integrated model of service delivery.

This position is responsible and accountable directly to the Family Services Team Leader at Western VACCA. In relation to work undertaken with the Child FIRST Teams, this position will be subject to some direction, guidance and reporting to the Managers of the metropolitan Western Child FIRST Teams in terms of their work with Aboriginal families referred through that Intake.

HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING

- Ensure compliance with the OH&S Act and VACCA policies.
- Contribute positively and proactively to team and organisation wide OH&S activities.

QUALITY & CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- Ensure compliance with legislation, contract and policy requirements in your day to day work in order to meet the organisation's audit, contract and registration obligations.
- Proactively apply your specialist knowledge in the review and maintenance of policies, systems and processes.
- Continue the development of a culturally strong and positive working environment using a continuous improvement approach.

OTHER

- Participate proactively in team project initiatives
- Support other team members in periods of high demand and during periods of absence.
- Participate in project groups and attend events
- Undertake other duties as directed

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We are committed to Aboriginal self-determination and supporting strong, safe, thriving Aboriginal communities and aim to ensure every individual is treated with dignity, honouring all cultural backgrounds, abilities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities and spiritual beliefs.

VACCA is a child-safe organisation and is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and young people with zero tolerance for child abuse. All successful applicants will be required to undertake a National Police Record Check and Working with Children Check prior to commencement of employment and periodically following commencement.

VACCA is an equal opportunity employer and has a smoke-free workplace policy.