

Position title:	TraCS Family Practitioner – Western Suburbs of Melbourne
Department:	Programs, Childhood Trauma Consultancy Service (TraCS)
Reports to:	Program Manager Childhood Trauma Consultancy
Job type:	Full time- ongoing
Date:	November 2020

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Alannah & Madeline Foundation was set up in memory of Alannah and Madeline Mikac, aged six and three, who were tragically killed with their mother and 32 others at Port Arthur, Tasmania, on 28 April 1996. In memory of his daughters, Walter Mikac and a small group of volunteers set up the Foundation with the belief that all children should have a safe and happy childhood without being subjected to violence. The then Prime Minister launched the Foundation on 30 April 1997. The Foundation:

- identifies issues that adversely affect the wellbeing of children; we work to help them recover and protect them from bullying and violence.
- works across the spectrum of prevention and care to deliver state-of-the-art, evidence-based programs and products.
- works with the best minds to identify and reduce significant threats to children's safety through innovation and partnerships.
- speaks out on the need for systemic change to build a supportive and safe society.

The Foundation is committed to Child Safety. Our Child Safe Policy outlines our safe practices for children. Our values are Caring, Friendliness, Respect, Responsibility, Valuing Difference and Including Others.

POSITION IN CONTEXT

In an Australian first, \$55.3 million in school readiness funding is being progressively rolled out across Victoria, amounting to a 10 per cent boost to total kindergarten funding by 2021. School readiness funding will help more children to start school developmentally on track. The funding enables individual kindergartens to purchase specialist supports from a menu of services approved by the Department of Education. The TraCS service is included on this menu, allowing kindergartens to procure the TraCS service to build their capacity to work with traumatized and vulnerable children, strengthening the impact of their existing programs.

Reporting to a TraCS Program Manager, the TraCS Family Practitioner will work closely with the TraCS consultant, educators and other early childhood staff working with children aged 3-5 years in kindergartens and early childhood services. The role is based in the outer northern suburbs of Melbourne with travel regularly required to early childhood centres across the region and periodically to the Foundation's Head Office in South Melbourne.

FREEDOM TO ACT

- The TraCS Family Practitioner role works according to the policies and procedures of the Alannah & Madeline Foundation.

MAJOR JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

- Facilitate referrals and links to relevant services to support children and families experiencing vulnerability (including family violence services, drug and alcohol, housing, disability, financial counselling or counselling services).
- Facilitate referrals and links to community based and/or universal supports including playgroups, Maternal and Child Health, Centrelink, NDIS and primary schools and parenting programs
- Foster collaborative relationships with community service organisations, DHHS, DET, hospitals, specialist programs and other professionals and key stakeholders regarding the support needs for children.
- Support staff to navigate reports to Child Protection and referrals to ChildFIRST where required.
- Participate in family meetings when required to support the needs of vulnerable children and families.
- Coach early childhood staff to have difficult conversations with families regarding their concerns about children.
- Support kindergartens to work through non-attendance barriers of enrolled children.
- Support early childhood staff in developing their understanding of trauma and in identifying children whose lives have been affected by trauma.
- Liaise closely with the TraCS Consultant in supporting strategies within the kindergarten that create connection, defuse conflict and provide a safe and supportive learning environment for children to promote their social and emotional readiness for school.
- Support children's transition to school, providing a link of information, advocacy and planning during the process from kindergarten to school.
- Support educators to understand the impact of their own emotional regulation as vital to providing a safe and supportive learning environment.
- Work with the TraCS Consultant to provide opportunities for reflective practice and debriefing of early childhood staff..
- Maintain accurate and up to date client management and statistical records.
- **Participate in regular supervision and team meetings.**
- Ensure skills and knowledge of research and clinical practice relating to children and violence, resilience and recovery are at cutting edge.
- Proactively contribute to program developments and improvements.
- Adhere to all legislation relevant to working with children and families.
- Contribute positively to the Foundation's culture through developing and maintaining collaborative relationships with colleagues.
- Other tasks as directed by the Program Manager of TraCS, the Head of Trauma Consulting, CEO and Senior Leadership team.

KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND REQUIREMENTS

- An appropriate tertiary qualification in social welfare such as Social Work or Psychology, with eligibility for membership of professional organisation (i.e. AASW or APS) or other qualification suitable for practice in the child and family welfare field.
- At least three years' experience in providing high quality, complex case management to children, youth and families in the context of violence or abuse and trauma.
- Experience working in programs with a focus on children in the early years (desirable).
- Proven ability in networking, service promotion and fostering collaborative relationships with relevant agencies.
- Demonstrated knowledge of the best practice models and theories relating to children, families, trauma and violence or abuse.
- Demonstrated experience in translating relevant and emerging knowledge and theory into practice.
- Demonstrated ability to work in collaboration with other disciplines to support positive client outcomes.
- Capacity to work independently at an offsite location, while maintaining appropriate levels of communication and important Foundation relationships.
- Excellent organisational skills (time management, thoroughness, efficiency) and verbal/written communication skills.
- Hold a current drivers' license and willingness and ability to use own vehicle (appropriate reimbursement of expenses provided).
- Working With Children Check and Police Check.