

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position	Bushfire Recovery Community Engagement Worker
Reports to	Team Leader
Direct Reports	NA
Status	Full time (38 hrs pw), Limited term contract up to June 2021
Location	Wangaratta/Wodonga

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

VACCA has an office in Wangaratta, Wodonga and Shepparton to provide services to Aboriginal children and families in the Ovens Murray area catchment areas. Services provided initially include: Integrated Family Services, Kinship Care case management, Foster Care, Therapeutic Family Violence, Cultural Programs, First Supports and Lakidjeka.

The Bushfire Recovery Program within VACCA provide case management and community engagement services to those who have been affected by an emergency who require a higher level of support during their recovery. The program covers those affected in Ovens Murray as well as a state-wide program.

Programs are delivered in line with the Bushfire case support program developed by Department of Health and Human Services in response to the 2020 Victorian bushfires.

POSITION SUMMARY

Bushfire Recovery Community Engagement Worker, will provide single point of contact for support and service provision for each individual and family registered with the service.

This position will be responsible to undertake home visits to children and families (on a needs basis, this may be twice weekly, weekly or fortnightly) and provide assistance in their recovery.

The positions require to carry out significant level of travel across the Ovens Murray area.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Internal: Lakidjeka, Kinship case managers

External: Child FIRST Alliances; Community Based Child Protection workers DHHS; local Aboriginal health services; KESOs, local Councils.

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

- Demonstrated understanding of, and commitment to, the values that underpin VACCA' 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 proven ability to advocate on behalf of children and families.
- An ability to work effectively with Aboriginal organizations, government departments and community service organizations.

- A sound understanding of grants and services available for Bushfire affected families.
- A sound understanding of the Bushfire Recovery Case Support framework.
- Written Communication: Prepares accurate documents and reports e.g. case notes, incident reports, court reports, work reports that meet audience needs
- Verbal Communication: Communicates clear, culturally appropriate, respectful and consistent messages to clients and community members and other staff
- Team Dynamics: Offers informed and constructive input and feedback to team discussions, assists and supports other staff in dealing with difficult cases/ issues
- Conflict Management: Recognises differences of opinions and works towards the resolution of conflict between team members
- A willingness to participate in training programs and in supervision.
- An ability to work flexible hours.

Desirable: Experience or formal qualifications in social work, family support, or family welfare.

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 a support service to Aboriginal people affected by the Victorian bushfires, involving:
 - Home visits
 - Advice and support
 - Providing emergency relief assistance
 - Referrals and advocacy in relation to housing, income security etc.
 - Linking with other services
- To develop and maintain linkages with appropriate Aboriginal agencies, government agencies and community service organizations, to complete formal written assessments on families.
- To maintain high-quality and up to date written records (case notes) and statistics on all casework activity including the maintenance of IRIS
- To participate in training sessions, team meetings, Case Plan Meetings and other meetings as directed.
- To participate regularly in supervision.
- To be involved in group work
- To work effectively with all Early Intervention & Family Support Programs and other programs within VACCA
- Other duties in line with delivering an integrated model of Family support services.

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 internal policies, systems and processes.
- Continue the development of a culturally strong and positive working environment using a continuous improvement approach.

OTHER

- Generate general and specific communication to stakeholders via effective and timely use of Staff Bulletin, intranet, forums and other opportunities as they arise.
- Participate proactively in team project initiatives
- Support other team members in periods of high demand and during periods of absence.
- Participate in project groups from time to time
- 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.