Position Description

Youth Worker - Individual Support Packages (ISP) Program

Location	Cairns	**Reports To:**	Program Manager - ISP
Award:	Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award, Level 3	**Salary Range:**	Casual $39.69 per hour (including loading) plus superannuation.
PD Date:	April 2021		

About us

Act for Kids is a prominent provider of free prevention, professional therapy and support services for children who have suffered abuse and support for families at risk. With over 25 centres nationally, we have supported thousands of children and their families for more than 30 years. In 2019 - 2020 we provided services to 44,894 people, including over 29,000 children.

Our unique multidisciplinary teams provide integrated therapy, sexual abuse counselling, safe houses in remote Indigenous communities, information, advice and referral services, intensive family support and preschools designed for children with additional development needs to ensure we set them up for success at school.

About our commitment

- Our vision is that all kids have a safe and happy childhood, free from abuse and neglect.
- We are a child safe organisation and all children who come into contact with our services will be provided with a welcoming and safe service.
- We prioritise working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to grow our cultural expertise and deliver excellent services to children, families and communities.
- We endeavour to provide a work environment that ensures the health, safety and wellbeing of all staff members is embedded in our everyday work practices.

About our values

At Act for Kids our exceptional organisational culture is aligned to our values. You will be part of a ***team*** that is ***professional***, ***ethical, caring***, ***courageous*** and ***collaborative*** and we expect you to demonstrate these behaviours throughout your career with us.

About the position

This position will proactively engage, build rapport and connection and provide time-limited complex youth work intervention to young people (9-17 years old) within the Individual Support Packages program.

The ISP program works in partnership with Child Safety to provide holistic trauma-informed support to children subject to statutory intervention orders. The ISP team work in close collaboration to deliver bespoke support packages informed by each child's needs and focuses on increasing the capacity of their support network to meet these. This ecological model provides specialist attachment-based coaching and mentoring to carers and stakeholders, therapeutic care coordination, practical in-home therapeutic support, and specialised therapy and psycho-education based on a thorough assessment of the child and their support network. This program supports children who have experienced significant levels of toxic stress, trauma and adverse childhood experiences resulting in highly complex behaviour and attachment patterns indicative of intense cumulative harm.

Key responsibilities

- Proactively engage, build rapport and connection and provide time-limited complex youth work intervention to young people (9-17 years old) within the ISP program.
- Facilitate social learning, community connectedness, good health and wellbeing for young people.
- Facilitate school participation and relationship with educational environment.
- Work collaboratively with other professionals and agencies to ensure young person's goals are achieved.
- Link people into community youth support for sustainable support and change.
- Build and maintain service level relationships with government and NGOs.
- Comply with all Act for Kids policies and procedures.
- Maintain confidentiality and privacy in all matters relating to staff, clients, and procedures.
- Fulfil other tasks that your manager/s may reasonably ask you to perform.
- Act as a client/customer focused, values based team member and work collaboratively with other staff to achieve strong results across all activities at Act for Kids.
- Ensure behaviour during all work interactions is aligned to our values of being *professional*, *ethical*, *team* oriented, *caring*, *courageous* and *collaborative*.

About you

Qualifications

- A Certificate IV in a relevant discipline (youth work, community services).

Skills and experience

- At least 2 years' experience providing complex youth work to young people in a child protection context or who have experienced trauma and disruptions in attachment.
- An understanding of current child protection legislation and policy reforms.
- Cultural awareness and an understanding of how to communicate and work effectively with families from different socio-economic and cultural backgrounds, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Knowledge of lifespan and developmental stages for children and young people.
- Understanding of local youth focused services and intervention.
- Strong engagement skills in engaging and working with children, young people and their families.
- An ability to work collaboratively as part of a team.
- Well-developed communication, problem solving and interpersonal skills.
- Excellent skills in electronic database entry of case management information and using standard Microsoft Office applications including Microsoft Outlook or similar.
- Excellent time management skills in maintaining a case load of clients, including timely record keeping and database entry, as well as meeting clinical supervision and other job requirements.

Other requirements

- Eligibility for a Suitability Card for Child Related Employment (Blue Card registration) or exemption based on professional qualifications and registration.
- A current driver's licence.
- Applicants must be eligible to legally work in Australia and proof of eligibility may be requested.