

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position	Regional Project Officer – Healthy Respectful Relationships Camps for Adolescents / Elder Holistic Healing Groups
Reports to	Team Leader – Family Violence
Direct Reports	Nil
Status	Full time, Fixed term position till 2023
Location	VACCA Gippsland – Morwell 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

VACCA is delivering Family Violence Therapeutic programs across multiple locations which will deliver culturally safe and trauma informed one on one counselling and group-based work with Aboriginal Elders, women, men, children, adolescents and families who are impacted by family violence.

Culture, Connection and Healing are central to the design and delivery of our program with Aboriginal families. The program model is family focused and when safe, all family members are involved and supported individually and as a family. Staff work within VACCAs Cultural Therapeutic Framework. This role will complement our current work at VACCA Gippsland.

POSITION SUMMARY

The Regional Project Officer for Healthy Respectful relationship camps will be responsible for designing and delivering six camps to adolescents over two years funded by the Dhelk Dja Family Violence fund through Family Safety Victoria. The Project Officer will be based regionally and overseen by the regional programs. The regional project officer will be part of a network of project offers in two other regions delivering Healthy Respectful Relationships camps, supported by a Project Officer centrally, however managed within the regional office.

The Project Officer will work closely with the teams in Family Violence and Client Services to identify suitable participants for camps and assess readiness to engage in the project. They will tailor the camps to suit the regional and participants needs, and work effectively across programs to ensure the camps run seamlessly and achieve outcomes listed in the existing program logic.

The Regional Project Officer will also assist the Elders Holistic Healing Group Facilitator with the implementation, running and continuation of the Elders Holistic Healing Groups. These group sessions will provide Aboriginal Elders who have been impacted by family violence, opportunities to heal and feel more empowered and more socially and culturally connected within a group setting.

The Project Officer will be located in the existing Family Violence Team within Gippsland and will receive localised support.

This position is expected to actively contribute to the prevention of family violence in the Victorian Aboriginal community as part of the Dhelk Dja's Family Violence Action Plan.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Internal: Regional Family Violence Teams, Central Family Violence Initiatives Team, Senior Project officer Healthy Respectful Relationships Camps for Adolescents, Evaluation and Research Unit

External: Dhelk Dja Action Regional Action Group, Community members, Corporate stakeholders, Family Safety Victoria

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
- Understanding and awareness of how family violence is experienced by and impacts young Aboriginal men and women
- Establish existing networks and relationships with Aboriginal Communities across Victoria
- Demonstrated experience of strengths-based approaches to working with Aboriginal young People and Elders
- Previous experience in managing a project including planning, implementation and evaluation
- Strong organisational abilities and interpersonal and communication skills.
- Proven ability to work independently and within a team environment.
- Good written and computer skills.
- Ability to work flexible hours when required.

QUALIFICATION

- A TAFE or Tertiary qualification in a relevant field along with demonstrated experience will be highly considered

REQUIREMENTS

- You must have and continue to hold a full Victorian Driver's Licence and a current employment working with children check card.
- Current COVID-19 vaccination (minimum one dose, prior to commencement)
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POSITION ACCOUNTABILITIES

PRACTICE AND PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

- Planning, coordinating, and attending 6 x 3-day Healthy Respectful Relationships camps for young Aboriginal people connected through OOHC, family services and FV programs aged 10-17
- Assist in the development & promotion of the camps and Elders holistic healing groups internally and externally.
- Support the development and delivery of workshops for young women and young men at the camps focusing on healthy respectful relationships

- Assist the Aboriginal Elders group facilitator to provide culturally appropriate group programs to Aboriginal Elders using the program's evidence-based framework
- Timely preparation of reports and acquittals for Team Leader and funding body
- Working in accordance with the Family Violence and Child Information Sharing Schemes
- Working in accordance with the Dhelk Dja strategic priorities:
 - o Aboriginal culture and leadership
 - o Aboriginal-led prevention
 - o Self-determining Aboriginal family violence support and services
 - o System transformation based on self-determination
 - o Aboriginal-led and informed innovation, data and research
- Participating in team meetings, training and other relevant forums as required
- Support the development of the program resources such as guides, and practice and data collection tools to support client services to deliver programs
- Representing VACCA at meetings, liaise with and provide and seek advice from internal and external stakeholders.
- Participating in broad project function including project management, evaluation and contribute to discussions regarding program improvement

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.