

Child & Family Practitioner (Early Childhood Educator)

Early Years Program - Wellspring Children & Families Hub



Who we are

Micah Projects is a community based, not-for-profit organisation with a vision to create justice and respond to injustice at the personal, social, and structural levels in church, government, business, and society.

Micah Projects subscribes to the principle of non-discrimination that seeks to guarantee that human rights are exercised without discrimination of any kind based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status such as disability, age, marital and family status, sexual orientation and gender identity, health status, place of residence, economic and social situation.

We believe that every adult and child has the right to a home, an income, healthcare, education, safety, dignity, and connection with their community of choice.

Work Health and Safety

Everyone has a right to feel safe at work, and Micah Projects is committed to minimising the risk to any staff member, student, volunteer, contractor, consultant, and Board Member within the organisation. We work collectively

What we do

Micah Projects works to break down barriers that exclude people from housing, healthcare, employment, and meaningful connections, and to give people a voice.

We support individuals and families including children to resolve crisis, break social isolation, have a home, access health and community services, and build a community.

We provide a range of support and advocacy services to individuals and families according to their needs. We ensure the immediate needs of participants are met in a supportive, informed, safe, and respectful manner.

Equal Opportunity

Micah Projects is an equal opportunity employer and promotes access to employment to individuals from a diverse range of social and cultural groups. We acknowledge the First Peoples of Australia as the traditional owners of this land and support their right to self-determination and cultural expression. We recognise that Brisbane is a diverse community and acknowledge the needs of individuals, families and communities relating to age, gender, disability, sexuality, and economic status.

Working together

It is important to Micah Projects that people feel welcome, have choices, and do not experience discrimination when working with Micah Projects.

It is our aim to work with participants, each other, and our partners to respectfully share knowledge, ideas, resources, and skills in order to improve the service for the people we support, and the people who work as part of Micah Projects.

Child Safe and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding

Children and young people are entitled to live in a caring and nurturing environment and to be protected from harm and exploitation. Micah Projects is a child-safe and child-friendly organisation that prioritises the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. We actively provide guidance for management, staff, and others in identifying and responding to concerns about the abuse or neglect of a child or young person in contact with the organisation.

We extend these principles to create safe services for all participants we work with.

Micah Projects commitment to vulnerable and marginalised populations

Micah Projects Vision and Mission articulate our commitment to actively engaged with people who are marginalised, vulnerable and in many situations present with challenging behaviour.

Working in Micah Projects you are expected to proactively support this vision and mission whilst balancing the needs of staff to work in a supportive and safe environment.

To do this we actively work together to ensure that staff have the skills and knowledge to understand that many people who access our services do not have the ability to always regulate their emotions. This often occurs when they are frustrated, do not understand what options they have, and are impacted on by substance use or alcohol. The consequences result in staff being exposed to in appropriate and challenging situations which we are committed to providing training and support to problem solve and ensure services can be maintained.

Micah Projects actively wants to adapt a shared responsibility approach for creating a resilient culture whilst providing services to our most vulnerable participants. This requires self-awareness and a proactive approach within our organisational systems. We support staff in understanding the approach and context in which we work. We encourage staff to communicate their needs within this environment and a willingness to engage in problem solving strategies whilst providing support to participants.

Micah Projects provides outreach service in the community, centre-based services and services via phone. Our goal is to always disarm people with courtesy, respect and clear communication recognising that we may not always get it right and will learn from our participants when necessary. We recognise that many participants of Micah Projects have long histories of trauma from childhood and as adults. Whilst this is not an excuse for behaviours that are threatening to others, it is also an opportunity for participants to learn alternative ways of meeting their needs. This is how we implement a trauma informed and sensitive approach to our work.

We are committed to providing a culture of wellbeing and safety for our staff. Employees can access support and guidance internally and externally, as outlined in our Wellbeing Guide.

Position Overview

Position Title

Child & Family Practitioner (Early Childhood Educator)
Early Years Program

Team

Wellspring Children & Families Hub

Reports to

Senior Child & Family Practitioner

Line Manages

N/A

Classification/Award

Level 3 SCHADS

Talkin

Senior Child & Family Practitioner

Based at

Hawthorne

Backup when absent?

Wellspring Children and Families Hub
Coordinator

Wellspring Children & Families Hub

Wellspring Children and Families Hub is part of a network of services that aims to provide opportunities and resources to parents and their children. The Hub has specific strategies to support children from birth to 5 years old and their parents who are experiencing crisis such as domestic and family violence, and homelessness, health and other social issues where dedicated service to children will assist the family through adversity. The hub provides resources to parents and their children through a network of services including

- Micah Projects Support Services
- Refuges, specialist Women's services
- Family Support services
- Child Health Nurses and specialist developmental professions

Hawthorne Child and Family Hub includes a licenced fee-free trauma – informed early childhood service for children birth to five years of age whose parents are engaged with support and advocacy services to address their current circumstances. Evidence demonstrates that provision of safe, supportive early childhood services whilst experiencing or witnessing trauma can mitigate the impact of trauma on the child's development. The Hawthorne Child and Family Hub facilitates and supports the delivery of visiting services and clinics and targeted early childhood groups and parenting groups.

Position Description

As the Child & Family Practitioner, Early Years Program, you will...

work as part of the Wellspring Children & Families Hub team to assist in the provision of trauma informed services to children 0-5 years and their families.

The early childhood trauma – informed program will be focused on:

- » Development milestones – supporting physical and social/emotional development of children 0-5
- » Positive interactions with children and their families
- » Support to access and engage in universal early childhood education and care settings
- » Outreach to families residing in temporary accommodation with Micah Projects

The position requires the creation of strong and respectful relationships with parents, to encourage and support them to be skilled, knowledgeable and responsive in meeting the needs of their children during their early years.

The position will work within an integrated service approach, requiring collaborative working relationships with other services

Stakeholder Engagement

This position as part of a team engages with the following:

- Families
- Queensland Health Child & Maternal Health workers
- Community services Stakeholders
- Specialist Women's Services
- DFV Refuges
- Volunteers

Collaboration within the Women, Children & Families Cluster and across Micah Projects Clusters is paramount.

Key Responsibilities

Service Delivery

- Support the Early Years Senior Child & Family Practitioner and Hub Coordinator to create a safe and stimulating environment for children attending the Hub
- Support the planning and implement trauma informed programs for the physical, social, emotional and cognitive needs of children in the centre
- Maintain the centre, and all equipment in a standard that complies with all current regulations
- Work collaboratively with families, other staff, organisations and community to ensure positive outcomes for children of vulnerable families

- Establishing comforting and nurturing relationships with children
- Ensure children are offered a safe, supervised, hygienic, responsive, supportive, educational, play-based environment with sensitivity to their unique life experiences at all times
- Advocate for and protect children's rights at all times
- Provide support as necessary for the management of enrolments, bookings and rostering for the early child care centre
- Meet all data and reporting requirements as needed and required.
- Promote a culture of respect, safety, and trauma informed approaches.
- Commitment and contribution to a safe workplace as per the Work Health and Safety Act 2011, including compliance.
- Assist Team Leaders to undertake administrative, practice and quality requirements in Micah Projects systems.
- Perform other relevant duties as assigned.

Data Management

- Complete administration and data collection for reporting and updating the participant management systems.
- Maintain a high quality of work with individuals and families as evidenced by well documented case notes and support plans using the organisational database.
- Accountable and responsible for making sure that organizational data and records are accurate, complete, and consistent, and used in accordance with policies and procedures and agreed upon evaluation processes.

Collaborative practice

- Work as a collaborative member of the multidisciplinary team, demonstrating a high level of teamwork, support, engagement, and communication reflecting the values of the organisation.
- Work as an inclusive member of the team, providing appropriate mentoring and guidance as required.

Professional practice

- Participate in all supervision and professional development as requested and to provide input into individual professional development plans.
- Provide high level professionalism, sensitivity, and responsiveness to the needs of internal and external people/partners.

Criteria and Conditions

Criminal History Screening

- ☐ National Police Certificate ☒ Blue Card
☐ Yellow Card ☐ APHRA Registration

Driver's License

- ☒ Essential ☐ Desirable

Travel

- ☒ Essential ☐ Desirable

Assets Provided

- ☒ Work Computer ☐ Work Phone
☒ Pool Vehicle ☐ Packaged Vehicle

Essential

- **Diploma in Children Early Education and Care** as recognised by ACECQA with a **minimum three years of experience**
- Demonstrated experience and knowledge of working with children from birth to school age and the development and implementation of early childhood programs that support the learning, social and emotional development of children with complex issues.
- Demonstrated understanding and application of the Australian Early Years Learning Framework.
- Demonstrated ability to work with parents to improve their relationships and interactions with their children and support their role in promoting school readiness and the healthy development of children.
- Demonstrated ability to support families to transition their children into high quality and culturally appropriate universal early childhood education and care services, including an ability to develop linkages and partnerships with such services.
- Demonstrated understanding of the issues faced by children of vulnerable families, including those at risk of or experiencing homelessness, domestic & family violence, parental mental health and substance misuse.
- Proven ability to work effectively within a multi-disciplinary team, and a demonstrated understanding of the skills and components required to participate in a successful team.
- Excellent time management and planning skills in managing a personal workload in a busy environment with conflicting demands.
- Evidence of effectiveness of communication style, written and verbal skills, and IT competencies (including Microsoft Office and other IT systems).
- Demonstrated commitment to cultural diversity and a working knowledge of equity and WHS principles.
- A positive attitude, and the ability to work flexibly, adaptively, and proactively in a team environment with direction and autonomously within program guidelines with a commitment to the values and principles of Micah Projects to meet community needs.

General Conditions

- All employees are to practice the values of Micah Projects as outlined in the Code of Conduct.
- Appointment to this position will be subject to a criminal history check as outlined in the organisational Criminal History Screening Policy. All employees are required to cover the cost of this.
- All employees are to have valid working rights in Australia.
- All employees must utilise Micah Projects systems to facilitate the quality of the organisation's work and services. This includes, but is not limited to, Microsoft Office suite, Quality, Human Resource, Finance, Data, and Case Management Systems.
- Employment in this position is subject to continued funding.
- Employment may involve work or training outside of normal business hours.
- All employees will comply with Workplace Health and Safety legislation as outlined in organisational policy and procedures.
- All employees are required to engage in support and coaching through the organisational performance development system.

Acknowledgement

I have read this Position Description and understand the requirements and responsibilities of this position as part of my employment with Micah Projects

Employees Name _____

Signed _____ **Date** _____