



Position Description

Position Title	Community Connector
Portfolio	Children, Youth and Inclusion
Area	Early Years, Children and Families
Reports To	Community Engagement Lead

Organisation Purpose

Our vision at the Brotherhood of St. Laurence (BSL) is an Australia free of poverty. Our purpose is to advance a fairer Australia through our leadership on policy reform, our partnerships with communities, and the quality of our services.

Our organisation employs over 1,500 staff and is supported by 1,000 volunteers. We partner with governments, industry and communities to address poverty across the nation.

Our work is varied. We deliver services to build capability and confidence across the life course, from the early years, youth and employment to services for people with disability and for older people in Australia. Our Op Shops and social enterprises are well known. So too are our services that support financial wellbeing. We research the causes and effects of poverty and connect research, practice and policy to advocate national, state and local policy responses to poverty.

BSL values diversity and inclusion with regard to our staff and the communities we serve. Our staff and volunteers come from diverse backgrounds, and we aim to create an inclusive working environment. BSL is committed to child, young people and vulnerable adult safety. We want all people to be supported, respected, safe and empowered.

Portfolio Purpose

Children, Youth and Inclusion is a diverse service delivery portfolio at BSL. The portfolio is made up of programs aimed at providing services to children, families, young people and adults. Children, Youth and Inclusion is required to operate in a flexible and agile way to lead change and influence systems. Children, Youth and Inclusion responds to the external political and service sector environment and offers new practice, service design and policy solutions to influence lasting change. All

programs in the portfolio must have a systemic change ambition beyond the service delivery.

Position Purpose

Reporting to the Community Engagement Lead, the Community Connector will support the site-specific community engagement in a local place-based setting. This role is responsible for fostering strong, meaningful connections between families, community networks, local leaders and service providers to enhance local engagement and participation. By identifying community strengths, needs and opportunities the role will lead the development of collaborative initiatives that align with the Early Years Integrated Approach.

Key Responsibilities

Building Community Connections and Capacity

- Contribute to the design of, and assist with undertaking place-based community engagement activities, utilise the BSL community engagement framework to guide the process.
- Identify and document community organising activities to understand local strengths, needs and opportunities.
- Locate information on local service systems, informal supports and community networks to inform service planning.
- Leverage internal BSL resources to support families and communities in achieving their aspirations.
- Assist in strengthening relationships between families, community leaders, educators and local support services.
- Contribute to the develop, and support implementation of approaches to capture and document community narratives for data collection and informed decision making.

Facilitation and Peer Learning

- Initiate the development and implementation of community strengthening guides and tools specific to their local community.
- Support peer learning initiatives such as Innovation Labs, reflective practice and learning circles to deepen understanding and impact.

Community Strengthening and Engagement

- Apply community strengthening methods to facilitate democratic group processes that support shared goals.
- Utilise digital tools to enhance facilitation and engagement processes.
- Provide community groups with resources to overcome barriers and enhance participation.
- Document shared aspirations, actions and barriers identified through engagement processes.

- Conduct interviews with community members to capture their aspirations and co-design solutions to local challenges.
- Use inclusive tools and guides to facilitate conversations with diverse community members.

Other Duties

- Work collaboratively within teams to achieve common goals.
- Demonstrate a commitment to BSL's quality framework and culture by participating in and promoting quality actions through continual improvement activities.
- In collaboration with the manager, set goals and objectives to ensure outcomes are met.
- Model BSL's values and adhere to the Code of Conduct in everyday work practices.
- Maintain a safe work environment and ensure steps are taken to prevent unsafe work practices in accordance with BSL policies and procedures.
- This position will require direct/indirect contact with children and/or vulnerable individuals.
- Other duties as required.

Scope of Responsibility

Direct Reports:

- NIL

Indirect Reports:

- NIL

Key Selection Criteria

Career Experience:

- Proven experience working with diverse communities.
- Experience in community development, asset mapping and community organising.
- Experience in assertive outreach.
- Experience in facilitating community meetings and conversations.
- Ability to implement BSL's Approaches to Community Engagement.
- Ability to inform the development of and implement BSL's Lived Experience framework.

- Strong digital literacy skills for facilitation and data collection.
- Expertise in understanding place-based methodologies when working in community.

Personal Qualities:

- A commitment to maintaining and supporting child safety, equity, inclusion, and cultural safety.
- Understanding of and empathy with the values and ideals of the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

Qualifications/Other:

- Certification in Community Development or equivalent.

Mandatory Employment Criteria

- Specific work requirements include weekend work, evening shifts, work-based travel, after hours on call, and attendance at a variety of different work locations.
- Proof of eligibility to work in Australia is required.
- A satisfactory Police Check is required. BSL will support successful candidates in this process.
- A Working with Children Check is required for this position. BSL will support successful candidates in this process.

The description of the position is a guide to the duties of the professional activities needed to undertake the position successfully. A review of the position description may occur, and it may be amended from time to time as organisational needs change. Changes to the position description will be consistent with the purpose for which the position was established.