



Position Description

Position:	Youth Worker
Reporting to:	Children & Youth Lead
Location:	Main Office: Shop 111, Pacific Epping, Corner of Cooper and High Streets, Epping
Outreach:	Various Schools, Community & Youth spaces in The City of Whittlesea
Date:	December 2023

Organisational Context

Whittlesea Community Connections (WCC) is a place based community agency that strives for the empowerment of individuals and groups within the local community who face disadvantage, isolation and obstacles to effective social and economic participation. The agency is committed to developing responsive approaches to meet the challenges posed by Whittlesea's changing and emerging communities. We have a clear role in advocating to both services and different levels of government through both direct service and policy input. Our services and programs are designed to respect and empower and are free, confidential and impartial. WCC is governed by a community based independent Board of Management.

Whittlesea Community Connections core objectives are to:

- Identify and address information and service needs of residents in City of Whittlesea
- Advocate for and with the community for increased participation in decision making
- Support formal and informal volunteer roles in the Whittlesea community
- Collaborate with agencies and Government to develop and sustain services that serve local community needs
- Continue to develop and improve the quality, efficiency and accessibility of our services
- Identify opportunities for greater community involvement and leadership so that community residents can contribute to decisions that affect their lives.

Position Rationale

One of WCC's strategic priorities is that young people have a sense of belonging and voice in their community. As a commitment to this priority, the Youth Worker position has been created to engage and empower, facilitate youth voice and leadership and address underlying issues to disengagement. This position engages and enables vulnerable young people to identify and achieve improved health and wellbeing outcomes linked to education, training and community participation opportunities. The Youth Worker will facilitate connections to services, participation opportunities and peer- led support. This position will also play a leading role maintaining and upholding child safety across the organisation.

Accountability

The Youth Worker will be accountable to the Children & Youth Lead through regular supervision, provision of regular reports and participation in performance reviews and appraisals. This position is subject to a three - month probationary period.

Overview of Duties

- Provide culturally sensitive casework, support and advocacy including through the development, monitoring and evaluation of aspirational plans to help young people identify and achieve health and wellbeing, education/training and career outcomes.
- In partnership with relevant stakeholders, establish outreach services and approaches embedded in processes and systems that facilitate safe, inclusive and responsive youth work. Outreach is integrated with other services (internal and external to WCC) ensuring young people are able to access the information and support they need.
- Coordinate & facilitate group sessions internal and external to WCC, training and other support to develop young people's social connections, confidence, knowledge, skills and engagement in learning.

- Undertake a range of communication and promotional activities that inform and connect vulnerable young people to the service
- Attend and participate in agency/ team and youth sector relevant networks and contribute to agency planning processes to ensure issues affecting young people and children living in the City of Whittlesea are identified and addressed.
- Develop and support new initiatives that respond to emerging needs and opportunities for children and young people connected to Whittlesea.
- Recruit, train and support volunteers and students to support program development and delivery.
- Collect and maintain appropriate and accurate records and data in line with client confidentiality policies and procedures.
- Monitoring and provision of timely progress reports as required by WCC and external funding bodies related to your work.
- Provide expert child safety advice and through information, training and building the capacity of WCC staff, volunteers and Board members.

Key Selection Criteria - Essential

- Tertiary qualification and/or equivalent experience in youth work and/or social work.
- Strong ability to engage young people & children with complex needs and expertise working with vulnerable young people individually and within group settings.
- Excellent understanding of The Victorian Child Safe Standards.
- An understanding of the youth service sector particularly in response to complex issues including knowledge of relevant referral pathways
- Very High standard of interpersonal skills including effective communication and written presentation skills
- A team first approach, contributing to a positive environment, with care and support for other team members.
- A positive attitude to working with, and demonstrated capacity, to support students and volunteers
- Demonstrated capacity for resourcefulness, self-motivation with an ability to manage competing and complex work priorities autonomously.

Key Selection Criteria - Desirable

- Young people with a culturally and linguistically diverse background are encouraged to apply
- Proficiency in a relevant community language

Salary and Conditions

- Conditions will be in accordance with the Social, Community, Home and Disability Services (SCHADS) Industry Award 2010 Level 4
- This position is a full-time 1.0FTE position
- An above award salary plus super and leave loading, is offered. Generous salary sacrifice arrangements, if taken up by the employee, can significantly increase the net value of the remuneration received
- The successful applicant will be required to enter into an employment contract
- Occasional after hours work may be required

For enquiries contact **Dean Marando** Children & Youth Lead dmarando@whittleseacc.org.au