



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA

Youth+

Marlene Moore Flexi Schools Network

ABN 96 372 268 340

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Position Description: Student Welfare Worker

For more information about this position, please contact Nadine Crawford.

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P: 0409 267 525

Role Title	Student Welfare Worker
Contract	Contract of 12 months
Hours	15 hours/week
School Network	Noosa Flexible Learning Centre, under Marlene Moore Flexi Schools Network
Reports To	Head of Campus at Noosa Flexible Learning Centre
Band/Wage Scale	Catholic Employing Authorities Single Enterprise Collective Agreement – Religious Institute Schools of Queensland 2016

BACKGROUND

Marlene Moore Flexi Schools Network (MMFSN) is an initiative of Youth+ and The Trustees of Edmund Rice Education Australia. Our services including Flexible Learning Centres (FLCs) offer a full-time and multiyear secondary education and social inclusion program for young people who have disenfranchised from mainstream structures. Young people may express a broad range of complex education and social needs and the Youth+ services respond with a variety of flexible and innovative social inclusion and learning experiences.

Youth + services provide young people with a varied and holistic set of learning experiences supporting them to identify and pursue an individual transition to adulthood, employment, further education and training and social connectedness.

Young people who attend include indigenous and non-indigenous young people who are disengaged from mainstream education for a range of reasons and include:

- Those who have had contact with the juvenile justice system;
- Those in the care of the Office of Children and Families;
- Those with a history of trauma;

- Those with a history of extended periods of unexplained absences;
- Those who are highly mobile;
- Those with mental illness or at risk of engaging in self harming behaviours or substance abuse;
- Those who have been excluded or repeatedly suspended from school;
- Those who are homeless;
- Those who are young parents;
- Those with a generational history of early school leaving;
- Those with a generational history of unemployment

See www.youthplus.edu.au - Publications for further information.

PRIMARY MODE

The Student Welfare Worker reports to the Head of Campus and Principal, Marlene Moore Flexi Schools Network. He/she has responsibility to support engagement, wellbeing and social inclusion responses of the campus. He or she provides support to the young people of the campus including engagement and program activities. She/He works collaboratively and is supported by Teachers, Youth/Social Workers and the Head of Campus.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

The employee in this position is required to demonstrate competency involving supported as well as self-directed application of youth work practices, to support young person wellbeing.

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- Demonstrated skills and knowledge in youth engagement.
- Ability to analyse complex situations and implementation of appropriate strategies to support young people and their wellbeing.
- Demonstrated capacity to work effectively as a member of a multidisciplinary team.
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively and establish and maintain professional relationships with all stakeholders

PRINCIPLES OF OPERATION (RESPECT, PARTICIPATION, SAFE AND LEGAL, HONESTY):

A primary responsibility for this role is to maintain fidelity to Operation by Principle and the best practice guidelines as articulated in the Youth+ Foundation and FLC Occasional Papers (available on the website).

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Typical duties and responsibilities include but are not restricted to:

1. **Develop and coordinate external support networks**

- Liaise and develop service referral and provision with government and non-government agencies at appropriate levels to support health, mental health and wellbeing needs of young people.
- Support young people to access support services e.g. counseling, health support, community activities.

2. **Participates in program provision to ensure wellbeing in an inclusive learning environment**

- Collaborates with the team to support a socially inclusive program that responds to the physical, intellectual, social, spiritual and cultural needs of young people.
- Participates in the daily routines and activities of the FLC e.g. morning meetings, lunch, electives, outings, camps.
- Undertakes a direct program provision role with a focus on health, wellbeing and engagement within the FLC.
- In collaboration with other staff develop and provide a range of programs/activities during the school holidays to maintain connections for young people.
- Takes a key role in following up with non-attendance including phone calls, home visits.

3. **Team participation/multidisciplinary practice**

- Participate in professional supervision
- Participate in regular whole team reflective practice sessions including daily staff debrief

4. **Supports child protection procedures according to policy**

In consultation with the Head of Campus

- Provide a support service to young people dealing with issues of child protection
- Provide a referral point for young people to appropriate support services as indicated

5. **Administrative Responsibilities**

- Maintains appropriate records
- Updates records on the database
- Supports the development of young person personal learning plans in collaboration with the staff team

6. **Demonstrate and support professional practice which is culturally appropriate**

- Work collaboratively with the team to ensure program provision is culturally appropriate.

- Contribute to the team in the sourcing and provision of activities which support cultural links and community engagement
- Work collaboratively with the team to develop community and family connections which support the engagement and connection of young people to learning and the wider community.

7. Other identified duties specific to the role in this Flexible Learning Centre

FOUNDATION STATEMENT

Youth+ seeks to respond to the needs of young people disenfranchised and disengaged from education. They provide a place and an opportunity to re-engage in a suitable, flexible learning environment.

FLCs seek to build honest and authentic relationships with young people, their families and communities, supporting and celebrating the uniqueness and dignity of each person.

FLCs are guided by the vision of Edmund Rice about the empowering service of education, to achieve personal and community liberation through educational experiences that enable transformation.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications should be forwarded to nikita.aganoff@youthplus.edu.au by **Monday 3 July 2017** and need to include:

- A cover letter of Application for Position
- Current resume outlining previous experience and skills
 - Including two referees (including contact details) and please include a referee from current or most recent place of employment

Please contact Nadine Crawford on 0409 267 525 for any queries.

STRATEGIC VALUES

Within our radical, social and ecological justice framework, Flexible Learning Centres are intentional learning communities that articulate the following core values through authenticity and integrity and are expressed through the life journey of its members.

SAFETY

Safety within our environment is liberating, holistic and implicit in all aspects of community life. This includes nonviolence, peaceful resolution of conflict, celebration of diversity, freedom from judgement, security to take emotional and intellectual risks.

RELATIONSHIP

Relationships are formed on shared common ground with compassion and love, respecting and celebrating the individual. We embrace the connectedness of complex and authentic relationships within diverse communities.

COMMUNITY

Our dynamic communities seek to be life giving environments where the dignity of all is honoured. Our communities are multidimensional spaces for the liberating power of learning and engaging together.

TRANSFORMATION

We walk together on journeys of individual and community transformation. We are sustained by and celebrate our commitment to hope, optimism and a belief in the possible.

ECO-JUSTICE

Eco-justice calls us to enact our responsibility to the interconnectedness, sacredness and dignity of all creation.