



### Position Description: Asylum Seeker Pathways Project Officer

<b>ROLE TITLE</b>	Asylum Seeker Pathways Project Officer
<b>LOCATION</b>	St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre, North Melbourne
<b>NETWORK</b>	South East Flexi Schools Network, Youth+, Edmund Rice Education Australia
<b>SALARY OR AWARD</b>	Victorian Catholic Education Multi Enterprise Agreement 2013
<b>EMPLOYMENT STATUS</b>	Fixed Term, Part-Time (2 days per week)
<b>COMMENCEMENT</b>	October 2017
<b>CONTACT</b>	Bethany Johnson
<b>PHONE/EMAIL</b>	0447 114 306 or <a href="mailto:southeastrecruitment@youthplus.edu.au">southeastrecruitment@youthplus.edu.au</a>
<b>JOB REFERENCE NO.</b>	
<b>CLOSING DATE</b>	Friday 22 September 2017

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply**

## Background

Youth+ is an initiative of Edmund Rice Education Australia. Youth+ services, including Flexible Learning Centres (FLCs), offer a full-time and multiyear secondary education and social inclusion program for young people who are disenfranchised from mainstream education systems. Young people may express a broad range of complex education and social needs and Youth+ services respond with a variety of flexible and innovative social inclusion and learning experiences.

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 Department of Health & Human Services;
- 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.
- Those who have a background of seeking asylum in Australia.

St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre currently works with four hundred young people aged 12-25 years, across six programs. St Joseph's FLC is funded by the Victorian Government and the RE Ross Trust to pilot the Asylum Seeker Pathways Project (ASPP) in response to specific systemic barriers faced by young people seeking asylum, or on temporary humanitarian visas. The project seeks to establish partnerships with employers and education providers to create meaningful post-school pathways for these students. The project also supports young asylum seekers and refugees who gain university, Tafe or job placements. For further information, see [www.youthplus.edu.au](http://www.youthplus.edu.au)



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION  
AUSTRALIA



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## 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.

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

Flexible Learning Centres 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.

## Principles of Operation

The four principles of operation that all Flexible Learning Centres operate under are Respect, Participation, Safe and Legal and Honesty.

This framework is a significant point of difference from mainstream schooling. The principles establish a “common ground” among staff, young people and families where the means to resolve conflict, negotiate learning, recognise rights and responsibilities are modelled and explored, both within the group and individually.

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).



### 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 non-violence, 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 multi-dimensional 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.

### Primary Role

The primary role of the Asylum Seeker Pathways Project Officer is to support the delivery of the Asylum Seeker Pathways Project. In particular, the Project Officer will provide targeted supports to young people transitioning from St Joseph's FLC into employment or further study to ensure that these placements are successful and sustainable. The role will work closely with the Asylum Seeker Pathways Project Coordinator, Transitions Youth Worker and other teaching and wellbeing staff across the school community. The role will also involve fund-raising and stakeholder engagement and management across the government, education and community sectors.

The role is 0.4 EFT (2 days per week) for one year, commencing October 2017.

## Qualifications

Tertiary qualification in Youth Work or Social Work, and/or significant experience in asylum seeker services.

## Skills and Knowledge

Essential:

1. Demonstrated skill in working with young people in a multicultural, EAL or flexible learning environment
2. Experience managing a dynamic caseload
3. Understanding of current policy environment and visa-conditions for people seeking asylum in Australia.
4. Demonstrated skills in project delivery and supporting the wellbeing needs of young people.

Desirable

5. Experience in community development and cross-sector stakeholder engagement
6. Highly developed written and verbal communication skills, including public speaking experience.
7. An understanding of trauma-informed practice as it relates to educational settings and/or working with people who have a background of seeking asylum.
8. Fund-raising and events management experience.

## Duties and Responsibilities

- Providing regular contact and individualised psychosocial supports to ASPP students to ensure their study or work placements are successful and sustainable
- Maintaining case notes and other data pertaining to project activities
- Advocating and liaising with community organisations to broker tutoring, mentoring and other community supports
- Advocating and liaising with employers and tertiary bodies in order to ensure ASPP study / work placements are successful
- Organise and participate in awareness- and fund-raising activities pertaining to the project.

## Applications

Applications should be forwarded to [southeastrecruitment@youthplus.edu.au](mailto:southeastrecruitment@youthplus.edu.au) by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017 and should include:

- A response to the selection criteria (listed below)
- A current resume outlining previous experience and skills
- Two referees (including contact details). Please include a referee from current or most recent place of employment.

For further information contact Bethany Johnson on 0447 114 306 or [southeastrecruitment@youthplus.edu.au](mailto:southeastrecruitment@youthplus.edu.au)

Youth+ supports the rights of children and young people and is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment directed at ensuring their safety and wellbeing. All applicants for these positions will be subject to EREA screening procedures.

## Selection Criteria

1. Demonstrated skill in working with young people in a multicultural, EAL or flexible learning environment
2. Demonstrated understanding of case-management frameworks and experience in managing a dynamic caseload
3. Demonstrated understanding of the current policy environment and visa-conditions for people seeking asylum in Australia, or the ability to acquire this knowledge.
4. Demonstrated skills in project management or delivery and supporting the wellbeing needs of young people.
5. Demonstrated skills in verbal and written communication for diverse audiences, stakeholder engagement and/or fundraising.
6. Understanding of or the ability to acquire an understanding of working under four principles of operation: Respect, Safe and Legal, Honesty and Participation.

*Brief explanation of operation by principles: All flexible learning centres operate under this framework and this is a significant point of difference from mainstream schooling. The principles establish a “common ground” among staff, young people and families where the means to resolve conflict, negotiate learning, recognise rights and responsibilities are modelled and explored, both within the group and individually (see Occasional Paper available on the website for further information).*