



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA



South East Flexi Schools Network

385 Queensberry Street
North Melbourne Vic 3051
[P] 03 9269 6900
[W] www.youthplus.edu.au
ABN: 96 372 268 340

Position Description: Aboriginal Student Support Worker

ROLE TITLE	Aboriginal Student Support Worker
LOCATION	St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre, North Melbourne
NETWORK	South East Flexi Schools Network, Youth+, Edmund Rice Education Australia
SALARY OR AWARD	Victorian Catholic Education Multi Enterprise Agreement 2013
EMPLOYMENT STATUS	Full time, fixed term
COMMENCEMENT	21 st January 2019
CONTACT	Chris Lougheed
PHONE/EMAIL	0418926224 or chris.lougheed@youthplus.edu.au
JOB REFERENCE NO.	SJFLC/NMASSW/1218
CLOSING DATE	Monday 17 th December 2018

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 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. See attached - Foundation Statement and Strategic Values.



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Primary Role

The Aboriginal Student Support Worker reports to the School Leader and has responsibility to support the engagement, wellbeing and social inclusion of young people who are participating in a class designed to cater for the cultural needs of a group of Aboriginal young people enrolled at the Geelong Campus of St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre. These young people have come into contact with the Koori Court or have been disengaged from education for 12 months or more.

This position will provide culturally informed wellbeing support to these young people, their families, and staff across the school community.

The Aboriginal Student Support Worker will work collaboratively with the classroom teacher to develop and implement targeted strategies and work tasks to support young people dealing with disengagement from education, and for whom a lack of cultural identity or connectedness has been identified as a major contributor to this disengagement.

This position will support all staff across the campus in gaining a greater awareness of integrating culturally appropriate methodologies into our practice. The Aboriginal Student Support Worker will be required to work in a highly mobile environment with a high level of autonomy.

Qualifications

- Working with Children Check
- Tertiary qualifications at Degree/Masters level (Psychology, Social Work, Youth Work or equivalent e.g. Social or Behavioural Sciences)

Skills and Knowledge

- Cultural skills and knowledge in working with young people, families and community from a variety of backgrounds specifically Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.
- Demonstrated skills and knowledge in youth engagement.
- Demonstrated skills and knowledge in community sector networking and partnership.
- Ability to analyse complex situations and implement appropriate strategies in line with the Youth+ Practice Framework to support young people and staff working directly with young people.
- 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.
- Specialist knowledge or experience in working with students who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and their families.

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).

Duties and Responsibilities

Typical duties and responsibilities include but are not restricted to:

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

- Work collaboratively with the team to support/develop cultural links, community and family connections, which support the engagement, and connection of young people to learning and the wider community.
- 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. counselling, health support and community activities.
- Work intensively with young people, family, and key workers.
- Provide intensive support and advice to key workers and family members around strategies to work with those young people facing particularly significant AOD, mental health, and/or behavioural issues.
- Where appropriate, work in individual or in small group settings with those young people facing particularly significant AOD, mental health, and/or behavioural issues.

2. **Administrative responsibilities**

- Maintain appropriate records and prepare reports as required.
- Maintain records on a database.
- Support the development of personal learning plans.
- Organise and participate where necessary, in young person focussed cross agency meetings.
- Ensure that regular SSG (Student Support Group) meetings are held and documented for young people who you are supporting.
- Liaise with external agencies to support the ongoing viability of the Aboriginal Reengagement Project including through new referrals and community awareness.

3. **Support the teacher in the development of and delivery on individual cultural support plans and programmes**

- Support teachers in developing engagement and personal learning plans for young people at-risk of disengagement.
- Facilitate professional development with staff members around working with and supporting Aboriginal young people.
- Participate in and conduct meetings with wider community stakeholders to develop and implement culturally informed activities.

- Participate in and conduct culturally informed class activities in collaboration with class teacher.
4. **Ensure child protection procedures are implemented according to policy**
In consultation with the School Leader and Senior Wellbeing worker:
 - Operate within the Child Safety Policy and Code of Conduct;
 - Make child protection notifications as required;
 - Support staff and young people dealing with issues pertaining to child safety;
 - Provide a referral point for young people to appropriate support services as required; and
 - Appropriately document all child safety matters.
 5. **Other identified duties specific to the role at St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre**
 - Carry out duties and tasks that may be reasonably assigned by the School Leader and Network Principal from time to time.

Applications

Applications should be forwarded to southeastrecruitment@youthplus.edu.au by Monday the 17th December 2018 and need to 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 Chris Lougheed on 0418 926 224 or email 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. Tertiary qualifications in Psychology, Social Work, Youth Work (e.g. Social or Behavioural Sciences). Registration and/or membership of professional associations relevant to the applicant's professional background is desirable.
2. Demonstrate in depth understanding of working within the four principles of operation: Respect, Safe and Legal, Honesty and Participation. Demonstrate skills in supporting and mentoring staff to work within this framework.
3. Demonstrated experience and knowledge of working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and communities specifically around the development of cultural identity and culturally informed practice.
4. Demonstrated ability to support professional learning through modelling evidence-based practice, networking and organising / facilitating professional development sessions.
5. Demonstrated competence in the development, delivery and oversight of intensive and innovative programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people who are particularly at-risk. This includes a demonstrated understanding of psychosocial risk and protective factors and the ability

to develop flexible and multidisciplinary approaches to ensure that particularly vulnerable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people can achieve positive social outcomes leading to re-engagement in learning through better cultural connectedness and understanding.

6. Ability to work effectively as a member of a multi-disciplinary team and step into team leadership when required.
7. Current or eligibility for Positive Working with Children Check.
8. An essential requirement of this position is to have or obtain a light rigid licence and an ancillary licence.

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.