



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: Youth Worker/Social Worker

ROLE TITLE	Youth Worker/Social Worker
LOCATION	St Francis Flexible Learning Centre, Chigwell, Tasmania
NETWORK	South East Flexi Schools Network, Youth+, Edmund Rice Education Australia
SALARY OR AWARD	Tasmanian Catholic Education Single Enterprise Agreement 2018
EMPLOYMENT STATUS	Full Time/Fixed Term to the end of the 2019 School Year
COMMENCEMENT	As soon as possible
POSITION REPORTS TO	Head of Campus
POSITION SUPERVISES	N/A
CONTACT	Ciaran McDonald
PHONE/EMAIL	0448 553 096 / southeastrecruitment@youthplus.edu.au
JOB REFERENCE NO.	SFFLC/YW/0519
CLOSING DATE	Wednesday, 29 May 2019 at 4:00pm

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply

Foundation Statement

Youth+ seeks to respond to the needs of young people disenfranchised and disengaged from education through the provision of a safe place that provides an opportunity for them 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, through valuing, supporting and celebrating the uniqueness and dignity of each person.

Youth+ Flexible Learning Centres are guided by the vision of Edmund Rice, and the empowering service of education, so that young people may achieve personal and community liberation through educational experiences that enable transformation.

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 disengaged 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.

Indigenous and non-indigenous young people who attend are usually disengaged from mainstream education for a range of reasons that may include those:

- who have had contact with the juvenile justice system;
- in the care of the Office of Children and Families;
- with a history of trauma;
- with a history of extended periods of unexplained absences;
- who are highly mobile;
- with mental illness or at risk of engaging in self-harming behaviours or substance abuse;
- who have been excluded or repeatedly suspended from school;
- who are homeless;
- who are young parents;
- with a generational history of early school leaving; and/ or
- with a generational history of unemployment.

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

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 at http://mail.erefllc.org.au/docs/occasional_paper_series_booklet.pdf).

EREA Charter and Touchstones

Edmund Rice schools strive to offer a liberating education, based on a gospel spirituality, within an inclusive community committed to justice and solidarity. The Charter describes our distinct identity as Edmund Rice schools and provides a practical expression of this identity. The Charter uses four touchstones to describe the culture of a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition. These touchstones give us ideals authentically linked with the Charism which underpins the ministry in our schools and educational endeavours. They help us set our direction and define our goals as, following Edmund Rice’s vision, we continue to reflect and to seek to make the Gospel a living reality in our communities. The Charter and Touchstones can be accessed from the EREA website: <https://secure.erea.edu.au/Publications/EREA-Charter/docs/EREA-Charter.pdf>

Primary Role

The Youth Worker/Social Worker reports to the Head of Campus and Network Principal, Youth+, Edmund Rice Education Australia. The employee has responsibility to support engagement, wellbeing and social inclusion responses of the campus. The employee provides wellbeing support to the young people of the campus including engagement and program activities.

The employee works collaboratively and is supported by Teachers, Youth Workers/Social Workers and the Head of Campus. The employee in this position is required to demonstrate competency involving self-directed application of knowledge with substantial depth in youth/social work practices.

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.
- Develop partnerships with key agencies to support services being delivered on site at the FLC where appropriate/possible.
- Support young people to access support services e.g. counselling, health support, community activities.
- 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.

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.
- Participates in a range of programs/activities during the school holidays to maintain connections for vulnerable young people.

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 Program Coordinator, Head of Campus and Child Protection Coordinator, Youth+:

- Provide a support service to staff and 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 and prepares reports as required.
- Maintains records on the database.
- Support the development of personal learning plans.

- Participates in YP in care compliance meetings.
- 6. Specific duties for Cultural Youth Workers: Lead and support professional practice which is culturally appropriate**
- Work collaboratively with the team to ensure program provision is culturally appropriate.
 - Lead 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**
- Carries out duties and tasks that may be reasonably assigned by the Head of Campus from time to time.
 - Take a significant role in transporting young people to and from school and activities.

Applications

Applications should be forwarded to southeastrecruitment@youthplus.edu.au by **Wednesday 29th May 2019, 4:00 pm** and need to include:

- A brief outline of the skills and knowledge you would bring to this role;
- A current curriculum vitae 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 Ciaran McDonald at southeastrecruitment@youthplus.edu.au or phone 0448 553 096

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. Experience in working with young people with complex needs, their families and community to support wellbeing outcomes.
2. 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).

3. As part of a team, ability to provide a range of flexible programs and activities which successfully engage and support young people.
4. Ability to work effectively as a member of a multi-disciplinary team.
5. Current or eligibility for Positive Working with Children Check.
6. An essential requirement of this position is to have (or acquire prior to starting the role) a light rigid licence and an ancillary licence.
7. Hold an Australian Drivers Licence