

Job Description Youth Worker

Role Title	Youth Worker
Flexible Learning Centre	Carnarvon Flexible Learning Centre
Network	EREA Youth+ Central West Flexi Schools Network
Location	Geraldton, Western Australia
Report	Head of Campus/Network Principal
Hours of Duty	Full-time – Category B (44 weeks) – Maternity Backfill – 12 mth Contract.
Probationary Period	3 month probation in accordance with the EBA
Band/Wage Scale	In line with <i>The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth Non-Teaching Staff Enterprise Bargaining Agreement 2014; Salary Schedule June 2019</i>
Closing Date	18 September 2019

Background:

Youth+ is an initiative of Edmund Rice Education Australia. EREA Youth+ services including Flexible Learning Centres (FLCs) offer a full-time and multi-year 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.

EREA 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; and
- Those with a generational history of unemployment.

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

The Geraldton Flexible Learning Centre began operating in 2010, providing a much needed alternative education for disenfranchised young people. Geraldton offers a variety of educational pathways for young people included WACE, VET Certificate Courses, and West Australian Curriculum outcomes through project based learning. There is a strong focus on literacy and numeracy skills in an integrated learning framework. Engagement activities including outdoor education, sport, art and cultural connections such as Aboriginal Language, are also an integral part of the daily offerings.

Primary Role:

1. The Youth Worker reports to the Head of Campus and Network Principal, EREA Youth+ Central West Flexi Schools Network.
2. He/she has responsibility to support engagement, wellbeing and social inclusion responses of the campus.
3. He/she provides wellbeing support to the young people of the campus including engagement and program activities.
4. He/she works collaboratively and supported by Teachers, Youth Workers, Head of Campus, and Network Principal.
5. Work collaboratively with staff to provide a safe, conducive work environment for staff and young people.
6. Support staff in providing activities/programs for young people.

Qualifications:

- Previous experience in the youth sector with knowledge and understanding of the local Aboriginal community.
- Qualifications at Degree, Diploma or Certificate level with social work/youth work experience.

All applicants **will** require:

- Working with Children Clearance notice.
- Police Check clearance.

Skills and Knowledge:

The youth worker works collaboratively and is supported by Teachers, Youth Workers, Head of Campus and the Network Principal. The youth worker in this position is required to:

- Demonstrated competency involving self-directed application of knowledge with substantial depth in youth work practice.
- Support engagement, wellbeing and social inclusion for the young people.
- Support staff and young people in providing activities/programs.
- Ability to analyse complex situations and implementation of appropriate strategies to enhance the professional practice of teaching and non-teaching staff.
- Work collaboratively with staff to provide a safe, conducive work environment for staff and young people.
- Demonstrated capacity to work effectively as a member of a multidisciplinary team, to work collaboratively and establish and maintain professional relationships with all stakeholders.
- Operate within the context of Youth+ Policies and Procedures.

Principles of Operation (Respect, Participation, Safe & Legal and 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 www.youthplus.edu.au).

Duties and Responsibilities:

Typical duties and responsibilities include but are not restricted to:

1. Enrolment and Induction of Young People

- Liaise and develop close relationships with families and referral agencies for young people seeking to enrolment.
- Gather appropriate information to support the development of a Personal Learning Plan as part of the young person's induction.
- In consultation with the Head of Campus and other staff, discern the grouping and support plan for

each enrolment.

- Provide a program to support the induction of a young person into the Flexible Learning Centre and their understanding of the four principles and common ground.

2. Community Relationships – Families and Agencies

- Develop supportive relationships and partnerships with families of young people and encourage their connection to the FLC community.
- Develop partnerships with the key agencies and support services for the provision of special services to support the education and wellbeing of young people in the FLC including counselling, health support, community activities and mentoring.
- Engage with local agencies and support services on the provision of programs for young people such as Domestic Violence, Substance Abuse, and other health and wellbeing areas.
- Advocate on behalf of the FLC's young people to local agencies, community groups as well as government and non-government services.
- Provide support to the Head of Wellbeing to provide contacts for the delivery of programs.

3. Youth Justice and Advocacy

- Provide support to FLC young people who have some engagement with the justice system.
- Work closely with the Head of Campus in the enrolment process of young people referred from the Justice System and DCF.
- Assist young people with their obligations pertaining to court orders and parole.
- Provide relevant information to staff to support young people in achieving educational and social wellbeing outcomes.
- Provide support to young people in detention so as to enable their ongoing connection to the FLC community and their families.

4. Transition Support

- Support young people in improving their attendance and into new class groups as required.
- Investigate and support pathways for young people into further education.
- Develop relationships in the wider community to support employment pathways for FLC young people.
- Support and develop workplace preparation programs for young people.
- Support young people in transition to employment opportunities.

5. Team participation/multidisciplinary practice

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

6. Supports child protection procedures according to policy. In consultation with the Head of Campus and Network Principal

- 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.

7. 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.

8. Lead and support professional practice, which is culturally, appropriate

- Work collaboratively with the team to ensure program provision is culturally appropriate.
- 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.
- Collaborate 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.
- Participates in a range of programs/activities during the school holidays to maintain connections for vulnerable young people

9. 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 and/or Network Principal, Edmund Rice Education Australia, Youth+ from time to time.

Application Process:

Applications for this position close on 18 September 2019. To apply for this role, please provide the following documents:

- A cover letter outlining your experience in working with young people with high and complex needs, programs and activities used to support educational and wellbeing outcomes, and strategies to improve engagement of young people.
- Included in your cover letter, a declaration that you are a suitable person for Child Related employment.
- A curriculum vitae outlining relevant work history, including contact details of at least two referees, relevant to the position.

All application for this position will be through the following website:

<https://applynow.net.au/jobs/115114>

EREA 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.

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.

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.

Acceptance

I, (print name)..... have received, reviewed and fully understand the Job Description for a Youth Worker. I further understand that I am responsible for the satisfactory execution of the essential functions described therein.

Signature: Date:.....