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| **POSITION DESCRIPTION** |
| **Position Title:** | Practitioner - Assessment and Services Connect |
| **Service/Facility/Department:**  | Children & Families |
| **Direct Reports:**  | Nil |
| **Key Relationships:**  | **Internal:** Anglicare managers and teams, CAF teams |
| **External:** Clients, Government departments, agencies and networking groups |

**Position Statement / Overall Purpose**

The overall purpose of the Practitioner - Assessment and Services Connectwill be quality service delivery to children, young people, families and the community by actively engaging individuals and families in partnership with the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women (DCSYW); and undertaking joint safety and risk assessments as a ‘co-responder’ in relation to the children in the home. The role will provide information, advice and casework responses to families with a view to linking them to appropriate support services.

The Practitioner - Assessment and Services Connect will work in accordance with the values of Anglicare Southern Queensland (Anglicare) and support core business by providing service, guidance and advice within this position’s specialty area.

**Position Specific Credentials, Qualifications and Other Requirements**

* Current Blue Card
* Current Licenced Care Service (LCS)
* Current Queensland Driver Licence
* Degree in Social Work, Psychology, Human Services, Behavioural Sciences or a related field
* Ability to provide after hours and on-call support; work flexible hours including weekends, mornings and evenings

**Key Selection Criteria**

* Knowledge of child protection and family intervention frameworks, including the Child Protection Act (1999)
* Understanding of contemporary issues and challenges in the field of child protection and approaches to enhancing child safety and wellbeing
* Experience in professional case work directly working with children and families; able to confidently and competently manage adversarial, conflictual or at risk situations
* Cultural awareness and an understanding of how to communicate and work effectively with families from different socio-economic and cultural backgrounds, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
* Strong communication skills to support decision making, problem solving, conflict resolution, crisis management and safety planning
* Ability to complete complex documentation, including family assessment reports
* Intermediate level computer skills including Microsoft Suite

**Key Accountabilities and Responsibilities**

1. **Accountability: Response and assessment**

***Undertake assessments and provide effective response utilising a partnership approach***

**Responsibilities:**

* As a co-responder with the Department, use a values-based model to complete assessment process and response planning to provide intervention to children and families to increase safety
* Assist the Department to assess the level of harm/risk of future risk of harm to the child and decide on the type of response required; refer the family to additional supports and or engage in time limited casework with the child/ren and family
* Address issues that are placing the children at risk of harm or in situations where they have been harmed with families and, where necessary manage the family’s reactions to these situations where there may be potential conflict or risk scenarios
1. **Accountability: Case management**

***Provide support and planning to assist parents and families to improve child safety***

**Responsibilities:**

* Ability to actively engage with and build relationships with parents and children to support effective service delivery and maximize outcomes
* Support parents to develop practical skills and knowledge that enables them to care for their child, improves the safety of the family home environment, builds stability and enhances attachment between the child and parent
* Work with perpetrators as well as victims to address family violence and lead them on a positive trajectory. This work may occur in separate locations
* Undertake assessment, planning and delivery of services that are based on the needs of children and are considerate of both protective factors and risk factors
* Teach and model a range of new skills including communication, parenting, personal management and home management skills and assist families to develop knowledge in relation to matters that may place their children at risk of harm
* Ensure families have adequate support, post closure by arranging follow-up with other support services.
* Assess referrals for families experiencing domestic and family violence in partnership with other practitioners and/or agencies
1. **Accountability: Team contribution and continuous improvement**

***Contribute to a positive team environment and continuous improvement culture***

**Responsibilities:**

* Develop and maintain positive relationships within the team
* Participate in staff meetings; share information to improve work environment and outcomes
* Provide proactive and positive peer support to team members, where required.
* Contribute to ideas for improved ways of working and assist with the implementation of change
* Undertake professional development and regular training opportunities to ensure skills meet the requirements of the role

**Other Duties and Requirements**

* Maintain confidentiality, including but not limited to information relating to residents, clients and employees of Anglicare and do not disclose information during or after employment
* Act in accordance with Anglicare’s Code of Conduct and the organisation’s policies and procedures.
* Ensure that credentials and qualifications set out in this Position Description are current at all times
* Undertake those tasks outlined on a duties list, or any other tasks delegated to you by your manager or supervisor, provided these requirements are safe, efficient, relevant, legal and within your abilities
* Undertake work practices in a safe manner and comply with work health and safety instructions, within relevant policies and procedures
* Undergo relevant evaluations and assessments, as requested by Anglicare, to ensure that the physical and functional requirements of the role can be met

**Delegation of Authority:**

* In accordance with the Anglicare Delegations of Authority Policy.