



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position	Playgroup and Parenting Support Worker
Reports to	Senior ALW and Early Help Coordinator
Direct Reports	None
Status	Full Time (38 hrs pw) – 12-month contract
Location	Chirnside Park

BACKGROUND

The Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) is the largest organization of its kind in Australia. VACCA is an Aboriginal community-controlled organization that supports and advocates for the Aboriginal community. Our strength lies with our people. Our team is committed to the organisation's vision and values; advocates for our children and other vulnerable community members; and shows respect for, observance and compliance with Aboriginal cultural protocols, practice and ceremony. Our Aboriginality is what distinguishes us from mainstream services and what enables us to deliver the positive outcomes we achieve for our people.

VACCA employs over 800 staff and delivers more than 70 programs across the state. VACCA's experience and expertise in the delivery of therapeutic interventions are underpinned by culture, connection, and healing. VACCA designs, develops and delivers programs with self-determination and an understanding that the intergenerational trauma experienced by our community requires intergenerational and community healing.

Central to VACCA's work is the importance of connection to family, community and culture as essential to Aboriginal children's safety, stability and ensuring that they have an ongoing sense of belonging. As Victoria's largest Aboriginal child welfare agency, VACCA will play a key role in the process of transitioning the care and case management of Aboriginal children from government and non-Aboriginal organisations to Aboriginal community-controlled organisations following the recent decision of the Victorian Government.

VACCA is implementing cultural therapeutic ways which is an agency wide framework that underpins our work with the community, our clients and staff

OUR VISION

Aboriginal self-determination - Live, Experience and Be.

OUR PURPOSE

Supporting culturally strong, safe and thriving Aboriginal communities.



PROGRAM AREA

The Early Help Intervention and Child and Family Support Service within VACCA provide a range of programs for Aboriginal families from brief interventions to intensive supports across the Eastern Melbourne Metro Region. Our Programs are implemented in the community through Playgroups, parenting groups and outreach hands-on practical supports to families in their homes. Our programs are delivered in line with an integrated model of service delivery that are driven by culture and trauma-informed approaches. These interventions support families to prevent Child Protection involvement by strengthening parenting education and capacity and also provide supports to families for safe reunification of Aboriginal children in OOHC.

The Playgroup and Family Support worker will contribute to the overall support service, particularly for parents with children from 0-5 years old. This position was created to ensure that the playgroups operated in the Eastern region deliver quality services to the Aboriginal community in the area.

POSITION SUMMARY

VACCA's playgroups and family support services are available to all children and families in our Community and provide a culturally safe place for families who are vulnerable to participate in activities with their children alongside strong Aboriginal Community members. They also provide a supportive place of mentoring and peer support.

VACCA's playgroups focus on: intentional based learning and play; facilitating positive parent-child interactions and parental skill development; supporting child development and school readiness; developing cultural knowledge and identity of children and families; participation of Elders, Community members and artists to develop strong connections to culture and Community; providing information about services including maternal child health; and affirming Aboriginal childrearing practices.

Additionally, VACCA family support services offer practical hands-on outreach supports to Aboriginal families' home. These supports focus on skilling up parenting capacity, strengthen family relationships, improving home routines for families, improving safety for children's wellbeing in their homes, connections to essential services, including links to health, education, cultural and social activities.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Internal: Other programs across Eastern VACCA

External: Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, Maternal and Child Health services, Early Childhood Education Services, Community Service Organisations

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

- Demonstrated understanding of, and commitment to, the values that underpin VACCA' vision and purpose and the capacity to take a leadership role in championing these internally and externally

- Demonstrated experience in working and engaging with Aboriginal families and children/ Demonstrated experience in child and family sector
- An understanding of developmental milestones for children
- An ability to facilitate group sessions with families and children
- A willingness to participate in training programs and in supervision
- An ability to work flexible hours.

QUALIFICATION

- Desirable: Experience or formal qualifications in children services, early childhood education, community services and social work are desirable. It is expected that applicants are willing to undertake a Diploma or other relevant training in the course of their role. This would be supported and facilitated by VACCA.

REQUIREMENTS

- You must have and continue to hold a full Victorian Driver's Licence; a current employment Working with Children Check card and a National Police Check.
- Current COVID-19 vaccination, including booster dose as applicable.

POSITION ACCOUNTABILITIES

- Assisting in the planning and running of culturally safe supported playgroups within the Aboriginal community in the Eastern metropolitan region of Melbourne.
- Offering brief outreach parenting supports to families with 0-5 years old children.
- Implementing session plans and work plans
- Understanding of and ability to articulate early childhood development to parents and carers
- Participating in planning and preparation for playgroups, including setting up and packing down, meal planning and cooking
- Engaging and consulting with Aboriginal Elders in regard to the cultural components of the program
- Ensuring that Aboriginal activities, music, dance and stories are incorporated into the program
- Ensuring parent recruitment, participation and interaction in the activities, including assertive outreach to clients if required
- Supporting the transport needs of playgroup participants when necessary
- Liaising and consulting with the program Team Leader about any issues of concern regarding child development and program planning
- Participating in Eastern VACCA's programs and goals
- Maintaining records
- Networking with local community agencies and organisations
- Participating in further training as considered appropriate
- Being available to attend Community events in a work capacity, occasionally outside of work hours

HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING

- Ensure compliance with the OH&S Act and VACCA policies.
- Contribute positively and proactively to team and organisation wide OH&S activities.

QUALITY & CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- Ensure compliance with legislation, contract and policy requirements in your day to day work in order to meet the organisation's audit, contract and registration obligations.
- Proactively apply your specialist knowledge in the review and maintenance of policies, systems and processes.
- Continue the development of a culturally strong and positive working environment using a continuous improvement approach.

OTHER

- Participate proactively in team project initiatives
- Support other team members in periods of high demand and during periods of absence.
- Participate in project groups and attend events
- Undertake other duties as directed

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We are committed to Aboriginal self-determination and supporting strong, safe, thriving Aboriginal communities and aim to ensure every individual is treated with dignity, honouring all cultural backgrounds, abilities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities and spiritual beliefs.

VACCA is a child-safe organisation and is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and young people with zero tolerance for child abuse. All successful applicants will be required to undertake a National Police Record Check and Working with Children Check prior to commencement of employment and periodically following commencement.

VACCA is an equal opportunity employer and has a smoke-free workplace policy.

This position is designated under the Multiagency Risk Assessment and Management framework (MARAM) Intermediate (Tier 2) level which requires mandated MARAM Family Violence Brief and Intermediate Risk Assessment training and responsibilities.