

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position:	Koorie Wellbeing Ways -Community Engagement – Case Worker
Reports to:	Community Engagement Education and Early Years - Team Leader
Direct Report:	N/A
Status:	Full Time (38 hrs pw)
Location:	Based at the Werribee office (travel between Werribee and Melton as required).

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 600 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 Koorie Wellbeing Ways Program sits within our Community Engagement program which is a newly created team within the Western VACCA office, out of a response to the expanding need in the Community at Western VACCA, and to provide supports to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families and children.

The Community Engagement team aims to promote and advocate for the cultural rights and development of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families within the Western Community. The case manager in this role would be working with Families and children from ages 0 to 18 years, in a range of different settings.

POSITION SUMMARY

This position has been created in a response to identify Community and family needs and a gap in service delivery for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families and Children, aged 0 to 18 years. The gap has been identified in a range of different settings such as, health and wellbeing, NDIS, Early Years Education, Primary School Education and Youth services.

The Koorie Wellbeing Ways Case Manager will be required to work closely with all Community Engagement programs and at times working in a collaborative space with all other programs within VACCA.

The Koorie Wellbeing Ways -Case Manager will support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to improve their health and wellbeing, NDIS supports and links, Early Years Education, Primary School Education and Youth Services. This work will be done by creating trusting relationships with families and children and providing families with the opportunity to build their own knowledge and capacity around their family's needs. The case worker will provide opportunities to strengthen the family's self-determination, using a cultural and trauma informed lens.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Internal: Community Engagement Programs and all programs within VACCA.

External: Community Engagement Advisory Group, Government Bodies, DFFH, KESO's, Maternal and Child Health services, Early Start Kinder, NDIS providers, Community Service Organisations within each region, Local Council's within each region, YSAS, Western Health and Co-Health.

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

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

- Demonstrated awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal societies and cultures, and commitment to continually build knowledge of such, along with a high level of awareness of the key issues which impact upon Aboriginal communities
- A proven ability to advocate for Aboriginal Families and their children, using trauma informed practices.
- An understanding of the health and community sector including acute and primary health services; maternal and child health services; child protection, Early start kinder and other early childhood services; and cultural strengthening support services.
- An understanding of the impact of intergenerational trauma within families living in the Western region.
- Capability to work effectively with Aboriginal organisations, Government Departments and Community Service Organisations.
- Well-developed written and oral communication skills, with the ability to prepare reports i.e., case notes
- Proven ability to work as part of a team, and to be able to work individually.
- Well-developed computer skills
- A willingness to participate in required training programs through VACCA and externally and to participate in supervision with the programs Team Leader.

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 (~~minimum one dose, prior to commencement~~)

POSITION ACCOUNTABILITIES

To provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and their children case management support, involving, but not limited to:

- Home visits to children and families.
- Attendance at school meetings.
- Parenting support and guidance, around education, Early Years Kinder, behaviour management, routines, child development and financial and household management.
- Assisting the family in being able to link in with Emergency Relief support when needed.
- Referrals to internal and external programs as assessed and in consultation with the family.
- Transporting the family to appointments when needed.
- Attending appointments / meetings with families to provide advocacy support.
- To develop and maintain linkages with appropriate Aboriginal Agencies, Government Agencies, and Community Service organisations, and schools to be able to complete formal assessments and Care plans, and behaviour management plans for Families and Children.
- To maintain quality and up to date written records (Case Notes) and statistics on all casework activity including the maintenance of Csnet.

- To participate in training sessions, team meetings, Case Plan Meetings and any other meetings as directed and needed.
- Implementing Cultural Therapeutic Ways in daily work with families and children.
- To participate in regular Supervision and Reflective practice.
- To work professionally and effectively with all alliance partners and other programs within VACCA.
- To be involved in Community Development, program projects, community events and VACCA led events
- At time required to work outside of normal business hours
- Provide outreach services
- To work closely with our Youth
- Any other duties in line with delivering the Koorie Wellbeing Ways -Community Engagement Case worker role.

HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING

- Ensure compliance with the OH&S Act and VACCA policies.
- Regular travel is around the region is required for this role.
- 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 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
- Work across both Werribee and Melton office as required

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.