

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position	Family Safety Contact Worker
Reports to	Team Leader, Men's Family Violence
Direct Reports	NA
Status	0.5, Fixed term Contract
Location	Morwell

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 AIMS & PURPOSE

VACCA is currently establishing the Medium-term Perpetrator Accommodation Service (MPAS), to provide support services to persons using violence and victim survivors. The program provides a Case Management response to persons using violence who have been excluded from the family home, in partnership with

Community Housing Limited. The program also provides a therapeutic response to service users and can support safe contact between the person using violence and the victim survivor, in relation to child access arrangements.

The program aims to reduce the risk of family violence by:

- Increasing the likelihood of engagement and retention in programs designed to address the motivations behind persons using violence
- Providing additional safety and stability to victim survivors and their children, to remain in the family home
- Providing victim survivors with the opportunities and space to make significant and informed decisions for themselves and their children
- Providing a culturally appropriate service to victim survivors and persons using violence, where they can connect to culture as a protective factor and support their healing journey

Medium-term Perpetrator Accommodation Service (MPAS) seeks to achieve the above aims by:

- Providing alternative accommodation to persons using violence, who are excluded from the family home in partnership with CHL
- Engaging persons using violence into culturally appropriate support programs that focus on behavioural and attitudinal change
- Supporting persons using violence to establish their own stability, by maintaining tenancies separate from the victim survivor

The MPAS Program will sit within VACCA Gippsland's Family Violence portfolio and will be overseen by the Men's Family Violence Team Leader and based at the VACCA Gippsland office and the 'Men's Place', a facility auspiced by VACCA Gippsland, to provide a coordinated service response for men residing across the Inner Gippsland catchment area.

POSITION SUMMARY

The Family Safety Contact Worker, will work with partners, family members and children in order to assess and manage risk. The FSCW will make the initial contact with the partner and other relevant family members to conduct an initial assessment and maintain contact on a fortnightly basis, or as required.

The FSCW will work collaboratively with the MPAS Case Manager to ensure that interventions are appropriate and responsive to the issues being raised by the victim survivor.

This position will also be responsible to work together with the Men's Family Violence team to develop and monitor safety and recovery plans for affected family members and to monitor the risks and measure the behaviours of men who use violence.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Internal: VACCA staff and community, including client services, regional management and staff.

External: Support and Safety Hubs (The Orange Door) Staff, Family Safety Victoria (FSV); Government departments; Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO's); other child welfare services and non-government 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 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
- Demonstrated experience in working and engaging with Aboriginal families and children
- Demonstrated experience in the community services sector
- Demonstrated understanding of Family Support Services and different models of intervention
- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of intake processes, MARAM and assessment of risk
- Demonstrated understanding and experience in Family Violence
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively and liaise with government and non-government agencies to achieve mutually agreed client outcomes
- Demonstrated ability to advocate on behalf of children, young people, individuals and families
- Demonstrated ability to prepare accurate documents and reports e.g., case notes, assessments, referrals, case planning and case closure and record keeping
- Demonstrates effective and culturally appropriate interpersonal skills e.g., active listening, empathy in all verbal and non-verbal communications
- Demonstrated experience with Client Management System [IRIS Data Base/CRM]

QUALIFICATION

Qualifications from a recognised tertiary institution in a relevant discipline (e.g.: Social Work, Psychology, Psychiatry, Community Welfare, Counselling, Behavioural Science or Medicine or working experience and knowledge around family violence and an understanding of the tactics of the abuse of men who use violence)

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 two doses, prior to commencement).

POSITION ACCOUNTABILITIES

- Contact partners, ex-partners and affected family members of men participating in the Family Violence Programs
- Development of family safety plans and provide information about family violence and support services for women and children
- Provide information about Men's Behaviour Change Programs (MBCP) in relation to underlying principals, content, type and length of service
- To work as part of a team attending any meetings and staff development training as required
- Assess risk and develop safety plans for the AFM, where they are not being supported by another specialist family violence service, and any identified risks to be escalated to management, for additional safety planning

- Any new threat to the safety of the partner and/or children should be documented and communicated promptly by the FSCW

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.