

Senior Tristate Community Worker

Department for Child Protection

Nurturing happy, healthy kids so they can grow up safe and reach their full potential.

CLASSIFICATION:	AHP2/PO2	DIRECTORATE:	Far North, Far West
REPORTS TO:	Manager, Far North Office	BUSINESS UNIT:	Far North Services
ROLES REPORTING TO THIS ROLE:	N/A		

ABOUT THIS ROLE:

The Senior Tristate Community Worker is accountable to the Manager, Far North Office to develop a new and innovative approach to child protection as part of the cross-border collaboration between NPY Women's Council (NPYWC) and the three child protection jurisdictions in the region. With oversight from the Tristate Steering Committee, the role will deliver a cross-border team of child protection workers with representation from South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, co-located in Alice Springs to further develop, execute and coordinate a Tristate Cross Border Framework through the development of a hub in collaboration with NPYWC that is accessible and responsive to community members.

YOU WILL BE ADDING VALUE BY (KEY OUTCOMES OF THE ROLE):

1. Increased co-ordination of service delivery to families residing in the NPY region through streamlined sharing of information about risk, safety and wellbeing in line with relevant legislation. This will occur in a timely manner, both internally and across jurisdictions which will see improved outcomes for Anangu children and families.
2. Develop and maintain a sound understanding of the legislative, practice and policy challenges faced by both families and stakeholders in the NPY region when engaging with child protection services.
3. Facilitate the implementation of a sustainable integrated model of service delivery for Anangu families which provides support, advocacy and direct intervention for a range of complex issues and develop preventative strategies and pathways.
4. Contribute to the provision of a hub and telephone service which supports families, shares information and completes referrals to relevant services to improve outcomes for Anangu families engaged with the child protection systems.
5. Communicating and working alongside the Department for Child Protection Far North team based in the APY lands to ensure a joined up approach to service delivery
6. Liaising with appropriate cultural and indigenous services and communities through working towards a goal of strengthening Anangu family functioning by developing and maintaining effective partnerships with the Aboriginal community and other key stakeholders
7. Collect required data to evaluate the effectiveness of the tri-state hub structure and formulate recommendations of what best practice child protection service delivery looks like in a cross jurisdictional setting.
8. Provide professional guidance to all stakeholders, which reflects a high standard of knowledge related to the delivery of child protection services.
9. Contribute towards Closing the Gap (Target 12) and furthering the aims of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (ATSICPP) through collaboration between tristate children protection systems by ensuring family led decision making and participation of Anangu Community in decisions about their children's care and protection.
10. Advancing the Focus Area of the Safe and Supported: First Action Plan 2023-2026 by focusing on achieving safety and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
11. Maintain/manage information about children and their families by entering information/data in to a DCP system, keeping case files well organised, up to date and be able to provide concise and accurate information about a child's circumstances.

WHO YOU WILL WORK WITH:

- WA and NT Child Protection Staff
- Regional Directors, Managers and staff across DCP
- NPYWC and other non-government agencies in the Northern Territory
- Anangu Families and Children

QUALIFICATIONS:

Essential for AHP: A degree level qualification in Social Work which gives eligibility for full membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers

Essential for PO: Appropriate degree qualification in Community Services, Social Sciences, Human Services



YOUR CAPABILITIES:

- Demonstrated ability to apply culturally sensitive practice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, as well as engaging in learning about Aboriginal cultures to better establish relationships and improve services.
- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the functions of Child Protection Practice as it relates to working with children and families, where issues of welfare, protection, safety and family support are evident.
- Demonstrated ability in providing written and verbal reports which are concise, informative and based on an analysis of evidence gathered.
- Demonstrated understanding of the range of issues and complexity of systems affecting children and young people requiring care and protection.
- Demonstrated ability to operate independently and within a team, under reduced professional direction, manage workloads, and organise and plan work activities that meet deadlines, taking in to account the need to prioritise competing and conflicting tasks and responsibilities. You will have proven time management skills and prioritisation skills to ensure key timeframes are met.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively with a range of key stakeholders and facilitate clarification, negotiation and mediation.
- Demonstrated ability to develop and maintain strong working relationships with people both within government, non-government sector and community.
- Demonstrate knowledge and commitment to promoting and creating a safe and inclusive work environment.

OUR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Maintain accurate and complete records in accordance with the State Records Act 1997 and departmental policies, procedures and practice guidance.
- Understand and follow the requirements of confidentiality within the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017, and whole of government and DCP policies, procedures and practice guidance to facilitate appropriate standards of confidentiality and information sharing practice.
- Actively participate in performance development processes.
- Comply with reporting obligations arising from legislation, professional conduct standards including the Code of Ethics for the South Australian Public Sector, and departmental policies, procedures and practice guidance.
- Undertake mandatory training activities as specified with the DCP Mandatory Training Procedure.
- Actively contribute to Reconciliation, and to the aims and objectives of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle.
- Demonstrate a commitment to preventing gendered violence against women consistent with DCP’s status as a White Ribbon Accredited Workplace.
- Actively support DCP’s commitment to ensuring a workplace culture that is respectful, safe and inclusive where our employees are free from discrimination and are recognised for the individual and collective skills and perspectives that they bring by virtue of culture, race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, intersex status and other differences.
- Act at all times in accordance with the Code of Ethics for the South Australian Public Sector and legislative requirements including (but not limited to) the Public Sector Act 2009 and Work Health and Safety Act 2012.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- You must have, or gain, a current Department of Human Services working with children check prior to being employed and renew this every five years before expiry.
- You must be an Australian resident or provide evidence that you have a current work permit.
- You will need to undertake training in Child Safe Environments – Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect and other mandatory training as required.
- You may be required to perform duties in other locations/divisions/units dependent upon Departmental requirements.
- You will be required to be located in Alice Springs, Northern Territory.
- Some intra/interstate travel (including in small aircraft) including overnight stay may be required.
- Hold a current Australian driver’s license and a willingness to drive is essential.

YOU WILL CONTRIBUTE TO



OUR VISION is for all children and young people to grow up safe, healthy, connected and feeling loved so they reach their full potential.



OUR PURPOSE: The Department for Child Protection protects, cares for and empowers children and young people at risk and in care. We do this by working together with our key partners to respond to abuse and neglect, keep children and young people safe from further harm, help them heal from trauma and reach their full potential.



Leaders in practice excellence

Staff in all parts of child protection develop and use best practice in their work to deliver improved outcomes for children, young people, carers and families.



Closing the Gap

We commit to a transformed child protection system that makes active efforts and where Aboriginal people and communities are empowered to lead decision making about the care and wellbeing of Aboriginal children and young people.



A child protection system that meets the needs of children and young people

We commission and deliver services based on a deep understanding of the needs of children and young people in care and our aspirations for them to heal from trauma and reach their full potential.



A thriving workforce

We are future focused in our workforce strategy, supporting and valuing our staff, proactively recruiting, and establishing sustainable systems, processes and workplaces that enable us to be highly effective.



Active and collaborative partnerships

We work together with our service partners and alongside the community to improve outcomes for children, young people, carers and families.



Working alongside carers

We respect and value carers as vital partners in keeping children and young people safe and well.



Quality services and safeguarding

We are accountable and transparent, and pursue continuous improvements to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people throughout the services we fund and provide.

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