



Position Description: Youth Worker/Social Worker

ROLE TITLE	Youth Worker/Social Worker
LOCATION	Hobart Flexible Learning Centre, Tasmania
NETWORK	South East Flexi Schools Network, Youth+, Edmund Rice Education Australia
SALARY OR AWARD	Tasmanian Catholic Education Single Enterprise Agreement 2015
EMPLOYMENT STATUS	Full Time, Fixed Term
COMMENCEMENT	Term 1 2018
CONTACT	Perri Broadbent-Hogan, or Jeanette Hartley
PHONE/EMAIL	Perri: 0418 372 902, Jeanette: 0448 553 096 or southeastrecruitment@youthplus.edu.au
JOB REFERENCE NO.	HFLC/YW/1117
CLOSING DATE	Monday, 27 November 2017

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply

Background

Youth+ is an initiative of Edmund Rice Education Australia. Youth+ services including Flexible Learning Centres (FLCs) offer a full-time and multiyear secondary education and social inclusion program for young people who have disenfranchised from mainstream structures. Young people may express a broad range of complex education and social needs and the Youth+ services respond with a variety of flexible and innovative social inclusion and learning experiences.

Youth + services provide young people with a varied and holistic set of learning experiences supporting them to identify and pursue an individual transition to adulthood, employment, further education and training and social connectedness.

Young people who attend include indigenous and non-indigenous young people who are disengaged from mainstream education for a range of reasons and include:

- Those who have had contact with the juvenile justice system;
- Those in the care of the Office of Children and Families;
- Those with a history of trauma;
- Those with a history of extended periods of unexplained absences;
- Those who are highly mobile;
- Those with mental illness or at risk of engaging in self-harming behaviours or substance abuse;
- Those who have been excluded or repeatedly suspended from school;
- Those who are homeless;
- Those who are young parents;
- Those with a generational history of early school leaving;
- Those with a generational history of unemployment.

See www.youthplus.edu.au - Publications for further information. See attached - Foundation Statement and Strategic Values.



Primary Role

The Youth Worker/Social Worker reports to the Head of Campus and Network Principal, Youth+, Edmund Rice Education Australia. The employee has responsibility to support engagement, wellbeing and social inclusion responses of the campus. The employee provides wellbeing support to the young people of the campus including engagement and program activities.

The employee works collaboratively and is supported by Teachers, Youth Workers/Social Workers and the Head of Campus. The employee in this position is required to demonstrate competency involving self-directed application of knowledge with substantial depth in youth/social work practices.

Qualifications

- Previous experience in the youth sector.
- The applicant may have qualifications at Degree or Diploma level.
- The employee should also possess or be eligible for a positive Working with Children Check.
- An essential requirement of this position is to have (or acquire prior to starting the role) a light rigid licence and an ancillary licence.
- Demonstrated experience or an interest in Outdoor Education.
- A qualification in Youth Mental Health Training or experience in youth mental health.

Skills and Knowledge

- Demonstrated skills and knowledge in youth/social work theory, process, frameworks and ethics.
- Ability to analyse complex situations and implementation of appropriate strategies to enhance the professional practice of teaching and non-teaching staff.
- Demonstrated capacity to work effectively as a member of a multidisciplinary team, to work collaboratively and establish and maintain professional relationships with all stakeholders.

Principles of Operation

The four principles of operation that all Flexible Learning Centres operate under are Respect, Participation, Safe and Legal and Honesty.

This framework is a significant point of difference from mainstream schooling. The principles establish a “common ground” among staff, young people and families where the means to resolve conflict, negotiate learning, recognise rights and responsibilities are modelled and explored, both within the group and individually.

A primary responsibility for this role is to maintain fidelity to Operation by Principle and the best practice guidelines as articulated in the Youth+ Foundation and FLC Occasional Papers (available on the website).

Duties and Responsibilities

Typical duties and responsibilities include but are not restricted to:

1. Develop and coordinate external support networks

- Liaise and develop service referral and provision with government and non-government agencies at appropriate levels to support health, mental health and wellbeing needs of young people.
- Develop partnerships with key agencies to support services being delivered on site at the FLC where appropriate/possible.
- Support young people to access support services e.g. counselling, health support, community activities.
- Work collaboratively with the team to support/develop cultural links, community and family connections which support the engagement and connection of young people to learning and the wider community.

2. Participates in program provision to ensure wellbeing in an inclusive learning environment

- Collaborates with the team to support a socially inclusive program that responds to the physical, intellectual, social, spiritual and cultural needs of young people.
- Participates in the daily routines and activities of the FLC e.g. morning meetings, lunch, electives, outings, camps.
- Undertakes a direct program provision role with a focus on health, wellbeing and engagement within the FLC.
- Participates in a range of programs/activities during the school holidays to maintain connections for vulnerable young people.

3. Team participation/multidisciplinary practice

- Participate in professional supervision.
- Participate in regular whole team reflective practice sessions including daily staff debrief.

4. Supports child protection procedures according to policy

In consultation with the Program Coordinator, Head of Campus and Child Protection Coordinator, Youth+:

- Provide a support service to staff and young people dealing with issues of child protection.
- Provide a referral point for young people to appropriate support services as indicated.

5. Administrative Responsibilities

- Maintains appropriate records and prepares reports as required.
- Maintains records on the database.
- Support the development of personal learning plans.
- Participates in YP in care compliance meetings.

6. Specific duties for Cultural Youth Workers: Lead and support professional practice which is culturally appropriate

- Work collaboratively with the team to ensure program provision is culturally appropriate.
- Lead the team in the sourcing and provision of activities which support cultural links and community engagement.
- Work collaboratively with the team to develop community and family connections which support the engagement and connection of young people to learning and the wider community.

7. Other identified duties specific to the role in this Flexible Learning Centre

- Carries out duties and tasks that may be reasonably assigned by the Director from time to time.
- Take a significant role in transporting young people to and from school and activities.

Applications

Applications should be forwarded to southeastrecruitment@youthplus.edu.au by Monday, 27 November 2017 and need to include:

- A response to the selection criteria (listed below)
- A current resume outlining previous experience and skills.
- Two referees (including contact details). Please include a referee from current or most recent place of employment.

For further information contact Perri Broadbent-Hogan: 0418 372 902, Jeanette Hartley: 0448 553 096 or southeastrecruitment@youthplus.edu.au

Youth+ supports the rights of children and young people and is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment directed at ensuring their safety and wellbeing. All applicants for these positions will be subject to EREA screening procedures.

Selection Criteria

1. Experience in working with young people with complex needs, their families and community to support wellbeing outcomes.
2. Understanding of or the ability to acquire an understanding of working under four principles of operation: Respect, Safe and Legal, Honesty and Participation.

***Brief explanation of operation by principles:** All flexible learning centres operate under this framework and this is a significant point of difference from mainstream schooling. The principles establish a “common ground” among staff, young people and families where the means to resolve conflict, negotiate learning, recognise rights and responsibilities are modelled and explored, both within the group and individually (see Occasional Paper available on the website for further information).*

3. As part of a team, ability to provide a range of flexible programs and activities which successfully engage and support young people.
4. Ability to work effectively as a member of a multi-disciplinary team.
5. Current or eligibility for Positive Working with Children Check.
6. An essential requirement of this position is to have (or acquire prior to starting the role) a light rigid licence and an ancillary licence.

Foundation Statement

Youth+ seeks to respond to the needs of young people disenfranchised and disengaged from education. They provide a place and an opportunity to re-engage in a suitable, flexible learning environment.

Flexible Learning Centres seek to build honest and authentic relationships with young people, their families and communities, supporting and celebrating the uniqueness and dignity of each person.

Flexible Learning Centres are guided by the vision of Edmund Rice about the empowering service of education, to achieve personal and community liberation through educational experiences that enable transformation.

Strategic Values

Within our radical, social and ecological justice framework, Flexible Learning Centres are intentional learning communities that articulate the following core values through authenticity and integrity and are expressed through the life journey of its members.

SAFETY

Safety within our environment is liberating, holistic and implicit in all aspects of community life. This includes non-violence, peaceful resolution of conflict, celebration of diversity, freedom from judgement, security to take emotional and intellectual risks.

RELATIONSHIP

Relationships are formed on shared common ground with compassion and love, respecting and celebrating the individual. We embrace the connectedness of complex and authentic relationships within diverse communities.

COMMUNITY

Our dynamic communities seek to be life giving environments where the dignity of all is honoured. Our communities are multi-dimensional spaces for the liberating power of learning and engaging together.

TRANSFORMATION

We walk together on journeys of individual and community transformation. We are sustained by and celebrate our commitment to hope, optimism and a belief in the possible.

ECO-JUSTICE

Eco-justice calls us to enact our responsibility to the interconnectedness, sacredness and dignity of all creation.