

Position Description

DETAILS

Position Title	Specialist Family Violence Case Worker
Directorate / Service / Program	Family Violence Services
Reports to	Team Leader – Specialist Women’s and Children’s Services
Location	Geelong
Classification	Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award, Level 6
Date Revised	March 2023

ABOUT US

Bethany Group and Barwon Child, Youth & Family (BCYF), are two of Geelong’s oldest and well-regarded community support and early childhood education providers in the Barwon and Southwest regions in Victoria.

In March 2022, BCYF and Bethany Group (Bethany Community Support Inc. and Bethany Kindergarten Services Ltd.) agreed to a merger of the two organisations into a single legal entity known as BCYF – Bethany Limited. This decision followed a 12-month exploration and due diligence project and is seen as a collaborative merger of two equal partners with common objectives. The merger completion date, that is the transition to a new entity, is planned to be on 31 March 2023.

After extensive consultation and collaboration with our existing workforce and key stakeholders, the Purpose, Vision and Values for the new organisation have been developed. These will set the foundation for the formation of our new combined entity:

Our Purpose: Supporting people, strengthening communities.

Our Vision: A fair, safe and inclusive community where everyone can thrive.

Our Values: Build Connection, Show Courage, Inspire Action, Celebrate Difference, Be Dynamic.

INCLUSION STATEMENT

BCYF – Bethany Limited are committed to being a place where everyone has a sense of belonging.

We embrace the unique perspectives and experience of our people and our community, and their voice is at the heart of our values and decision making.

We aim to be courageous as we learn, grow, and evolve as an accessible, inclusive and safe organisation for people of all identities.

We are working to create a team of people who reflect the diverse community we support. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, LGBTQIA+, culturally diverse people, those living with a disability, and those looking to return to the workforce following a break in their career, are encouraged to apply for our roles.

CHILD SAFETY STATEMENT

BCYF – Bethany Limited are committed to child safety in every aspect of the organisations. We take deliberate steps to protect children from physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological abuse and neglect. Our organisation fosters openness to create a culture in which everyone – staff, parents, carers, and children – feel confident, enabled, and supported to safely disclose child safety or wellbeing concerns.

We have zero tolerance of any abuse or maltreatment of children. We are committed to ensuring children and young people are able to actively participate in decisions that affect their lives.

We understand our legal and moral obligations to treat any child safety concerns seriously. We report any allegations and wellbeing concerns to authorities. We are committed to the cultural safety of all children and young people. This includes providing a safe environment for children and young people with a disability, who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds or who identify as LGBTI+.

BCYF – Bethany Limited policies and practices promote the safety and wellbeing of children and establish an effective, consistent approach to prevent, respond to and encourage the reporting of allegations of child abuse and harm.

All children, their families and carers should feel welcome at BCYF – Bethany Limited, including feeling able to express their identity and raise concerns about their own or others' safety.

POSITION OVERVIEW

The Specialist Family Violence service delivery environment is currently engaged in a plethora of reform activity as a direct result of the Royal Commission into Family Violence (2015), subsequent recommendations (2016) and significant funding from government. Particular reforms relevant to this role include but are not limited to; The review of the Specialist Women and Children's Case Management service delivery model, undertaken by Urbis Consultancy in 2018.. The implementation of the Information Sharing Scheme (2018), developed to increase the lawful sharing of risk relevant information to ensure safety for victim survivors and accountability for perpetrators. The role of Family Violence Case Worker is to provide a brief, intermediate or intensive response to women and children victim survivors.

Women and Children Services

The Specialist Women and Children Services team promotes safe, equal and just relationships by privileging the safety of women and children, by listening to the voices of children and by a commitment to culturally sensitive practice. Women and Children Services include:

Homeless Children's Specialist Support Service

Homeless Children's Specialist Support Service is funded by the Department of Human Services as part of The Road Home the National Approach to Reducing Homelessness. The HCSSS incorporates a suite of support responses to children and families including assessment and case planning support; enhanced case management and therapeutic group work.

Specialised Family Violence Support for Women & Children

Provides support services including outreach and case management and therapeutic group work to women and where appropriate their children, who are experiencing or escaping family violence.

Court Support 4 Kids

Court Support 4 Kids provides play for children while mothers go about their court business. This role will also work collaboratively with Court staff, Family Violence workers, Police and other service providers to ensure the best possible experience for women and children when attending court

BCYF – Bethany Limited prioritizes working with family violence by aiming to lessen the impact of family violence and address perpetrator behaviour. Our services operate from a structural feminist framework that understands family violence is gendered and is resultant of the social construction of male identity and behaviour i.e. masculinity, power and control and reinforced by systems, ideology and behaviours within our society. We pay particular attention to the active identification and management of all risks associated with family violence.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

Duties of this position may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Conduct comprehensive safety and risk assessments in line with the MARAM to determine the current and ongoing risks and service requirements for women and children experiencing family violence
- Under the guidance of senior workers, provide a case management response to a caseload of low to medium complexity cases
- To fully consider the needs of women and children who have experienced or witnessed family violence and make appropriate referrals
- Work in close liaison with Family Safety Contact Worker to ensure streamlined referral into case management when risk escalates
- Partner with Specialist Men's Services, Family Safety Contact, Barwon Orange Door to ensure an integrated service response to women and children, accountability, and ongoing service development
- To liaise and build effective working relationships with Police, Courts and a range of family violence specific and mainstream support services
- Co-facilitate a range of educational or support based groups under the guidance of Specialist Case Workers and provide secondary consultation to internal or external services
- To maintain client documentation in accordance with appropriate standards and professional requirements and comply with the accurate collection of statistical information
- Undertake consultation, planning and information sharing (as per information sharing guidelines) both internally and with external agencies
- Actively participate in regular supervision with Team Leader – Specialist Women's and Children's Services
- To maintain accurate and appropriate client files in line with accreditation standards, and maintain complete and accurate data internally and externally
- Other reasonable duties as directed

Organisational Accountabilities:

- Apply BCYF – Bethany Limited quality and risk management frameworks.
- Understand and comply with the standards of a child safe organisation in both practice and culture.
- Active involvement in professional development to build knowledge and skills.
- Make decisions following the values, and the relevant standards, practices, policies, procedures, regulations, industrial instruments and legislation.

QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Holds a relevant degree or post graduate qualification in Social Work, Psychology or related behavioural science, Criminology, or a related discipline and is willing to undertake further training to achieve Mandatory Minimum Qualifications. Or meets the Mandatory Minimum Qualifications for Family Violence Practitioners by meeting one of the below:
 - Holds a Bachelor of Social Work or equivalent qualification, or
 - Have been employed in the specialist family violence workforce before 1 July 2021 with continuous services (has not had a break from this work for more than 4 years), or
 - Brings significant cultural knowledge or lived experience and is working towards a Bachelor of Social Work or equivalent qualification, or

- Holds at least 5 years of relevant professional experience or hold a related qualification and is working towards a Bachelor of Social Work or equivalent qualification
- Experience in the family violence field, demonstrated particularly in provision of case management crisis intervention and/or therapeutic interventions for women and children
- A comprehensive understanding of the gendered nature of family violence and the impact upon women, children and families.
- Capacity to plan sessions and facilitate therapeutic or educational support groups for women and children in relation to family violence.
- Well-developed observational, conceptual and analytical skills, together with highly developed interpersonal and communication skills including written mediums.
- Excellent communicator with strong interpersonal, advanced written and interpersonal skills.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS OF THE ROLE

All employees must undergo and maintain a range of satisfactory checks as a condition of employment. These include:

- Working with Children Check
- National Police Check
- International Police Check (if required)
- Have the right to work in Australia

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- BCYF - Bethany Limited Staff
- Sexual Assault and Family Violence Centre
- Victoria Police, Corrections Victoria
- Wathaurong
- Colac Area Health
- DFFH Child Protection
- Family Safety Victoria
- Other Community Service Organisations

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS & ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS OF THE ROLE

BCYF – Bethany Limited are committed to creating inclusive spaces that are accessible for everyone by reducing and/or removing barriers through reasonable adjustments.

The following table shows the physical and psychological work environment characteristics that have been identified as part of this role. Where possible, BCYF – Bethany Limited will make reasonable adjustments to support individuals to succeed in their roles.

Note: The intention of the position description is to provide an outline of scope and responsibilities, at

Required activities / working environment	Frequency
Computer based tasks, sedentary position, office based	Often
Repetitive manual tasks	Often
Working in buildings which may have stairs <i>(Reasonable adjustments can be made)</i>	Often
Driving, in & out of vehicles <i>(If driving is required, must hold current Victorian Driver Licence)</i>	Sometimes
Bending, lifting, pushing, pulling	Sometimes
Working alone or at a co-located site	Sometimes
Confrontational/confronting situations <i>(Due to the nature of our work, there may be times when staff are exposed to behaviour, language and/or situations that can be confronting)</i>	Sometimes
Working outside in differing weather conditions	Rarely
Working oncall and/or after hours	Rarely
Attending external locations including client homes	Sometimes

a point in time. Please note, responsibilities may evolve in accordance with organisational needs.

EMPLOYEE DECLARATION

I have read and understood this Position Description and in signing this document agree that I can fulfill all the requirements of the position described in this document. Additionally, I agree to notify management immediately of any change in my capacity to meet any of the requirements outlined in this Position Description.

Name:	Signature:	Date: