



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position	Better Futures – Community Connector	Position Number	TBC
Reports to	Team Leader	Direct Reports	Nil
Status	Fixed Term	Time Fraction	Full Time
Award	SCHADS 4	Location	Dandenong and BPA

OUR VISION

Aboriginal self-determination – Live, Experience and Be.

OUR PURPOSE

Supporting culturally strong, safe and thriving Aboriginal communities.

POSITION SUMMARY

The Roadmap to Reform aims to strengthen home-based care and improve outcomes for children in out-of-home care, helping them achieve independent adult lives through tailored support. Better Futures supports care leavers in their transition to independence, engaging with them and their support networks early on. This program covers housing, education, employment, health, and community connections across five service areas. Eligible individuals, from nearly 16 to 21 years old, receive varying levels of support aligned with their needs and transition goals.

The Better Futures Community Connector acts as a bridge between young individuals transitioning from care to the community, facilitating access to resources and opportunities. They organise outings and educational pathways, fostering connections that help these youths pursue their aspirations in education and employment. While they don't engage in direct casework, they're a vital part of the support network for these individuals. Connectors assist those who've been in out-of-home care and are aiming for independent living post-care.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Internal: Better Futures Staff, Care Services programs including staff, volunteers, and supervisors VACCA corporate services staff

External: Better Futures Community Connectors state-wide; Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), Government funding bodies and contracting organisations, Training and educational organisations, service providers, advocates, and other support services, Community members, other stakeholders and service providers



KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

ESSENTIAL

- Demonstrated commitment and understanding for the values that underpin VACCA' vision and purpose
- 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
- Proven ability to create safe environments for children, shielding them from abuse and neglect.
- Excellent interpersonal skills for professional communication, negotiation, and effective problem-solving.
- Exceptional writing abilities for creating professional case notes, assessments, and reports.
- Proficient in computer literacy and digital skills.
- Proactive approach in fostering a positive, collaborative work environment, contributing to ongoing improvements.
- Understanding and application of child-safe practices and effective risk management.
- Experience supporting young people dealing with backgrounds of trauma.
- Ability to navigate complex relationships and interactions with various stakeholders effectively.

REQUIREMENTS

- A relevant tertiary qualification in Social Work, Welfare Work or Social Sciences (or willing to obtain) or less formal qualifications with significant industry experience.
- You must have and continue to hold a full Victorian Driver's Licence and a current employment working with children check card.
- Current COVID-19 vaccination, including booster dose as applicable.

POSITION ACCOUNTABILITIES

SERVICE DELIVERY

- Develop, implement, and document the Community Connections Directions Plan.
- Connect young people leaving Out of Home Care with community resources.
- Identify, link, and support community engagement based on young people's strengths and goals.
- Coordinate the Community Connections plan implementation and evaluation.
- Establish swift relationships and collaborations for the benefit of young people's outcomes.
- Collaborate with local partners to strengthen community ties for transitioning youth.
- Motivate, encourage and empower clients to address areas of personal difficulty and consider options for the development of personal wellbeing.
- To actively support, encourage and maintain the development of positive relationships, networks and linkages with the young person's community and culture.



- To actively promote the establishment and maintenance of positive family relationships in accordance with the young person's wishes and as outlined in the care plan.
- To liaise effectively with relevant services and supports to create linkages and options for young people in the program.
- To assign, implement and manage a flexible support package based on the case plan for each young person.
- To conduct ongoing risk assessments, identifying potential for harm and protective factors, and where appropriate, implement risk management strategies.
- Maintain an effective service delivery system for clients transitioning to independence.
- Stay informed about available resources and services for vulnerable young people and families.

ADMINISTRATION

- Create Outcomes Reports detailing achievements and progress aligned with the community connections directions plan
- Maintain a good standard of electronic records in line with the case management systems and DFFH legislative and VACCA policy requirements including use of CRISSP and brokerage spending.
- Maintain accurate statistical data using data systems as required by VACCA and DFFH
- Participate in orientation and inductions, formal supervision, reflective practice, annual performance appraisals and professional development activities, in accordance with VACCA's supervision framework and related policies.
- Maintain a good working knowledge of resources and services available to vulnerable young people and their families.

RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

- Collaborate within a multidisciplinary care team, sharing individual skills and knowledge.
- Work co-operatively with other Government and non-Government agencies and with all relevant Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal stakeholders in maintaining an effective and responsive service delivery system for clients who are transitioning from state care to independence

HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING

- Ensure compliance with the OH&S Act and VACCA policies.
- Support a positive team culture and contribute to the activities of the team through engagement at team meetings and within the tasks that are undertaken.
- Contribute to the team by providing support and assistance to peers.
- Support young people's best interests through any engagement with or in relation to them.
- Develop and maintain effective relationships with key stakeholders including clients, families, community service organisations, relevant professionals, and government officials.
- Undertake regular supervision and performance review with line manager, providing feedback to promote collaborative working relationships.

- 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.
- Provide services and abide by all program requirements and responsibilities according to the Out of Home Care guidelines, uniting policies, and procedures, DFFH policies and practices, and in accordance with relevant legislation.
- Create and maintain risk assessments for Community Connector lead activities and mentoring activities.

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.

This position is designated under the Multiagency Risk Assessment and Management framework (MARAM) Identification (Tier 2) level which requires mandated MARAM Family Violence Screening & Identification training and responsibilities.