



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

<b>Position</b>	Better Futures – Community Connector	<b>Position Number</b>	P10121
<b>Reports to</b>	Team Leader – Better Futures	<b>Direct Reports</b>	Nil
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing	<b>Time Fraction</b>	Full Time
<b>Award</b>	SCHADS 4.4	<b>Location</b>	Preston

## OUR VISION

Aboriginal self-determination – Live, Experience and Be.

## OUR PURPOSE

Supporting culturally strong, safe and thriving Aboriginal communities.

## POSITION SUMMARY

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 15.9 months to 21 years old, receive varying levels of support aligned with their needs and transition goals.

The Better Futures Community Connector role acts as a bridge between young individuals transitioning from care to the community, building supportive networks, pathways and connections for young people in their local community. They provide opportunities for young people to participate in civic, social, economic and cultural life in their community. Community Connectors seek out and broker partnerships, networks and resources within local communities and with businesses to strengthen young peoples' social capital and community connectedness. Community Connectors do not provide case work, as this sits with the Better Futures worker, or the young person's case manager if the young person is still in care services. The Better Futures worker and the Community Connector work collaboratively to support a young person with these connections.

## KEY RELATIONSHIPS

**Internal:** Better Futures Staff, VACCA Residential Care; 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's 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
- Demonstrated experience in the child and family sector and engaging with Aboriginal families, young people and children.
- Strong connections to the Aboriginal community and organisations within the Northern metropolitan and wider Victorian area.
- A demonstrated knowledge and understanding of issues surrounding youth, homelessness, adolescent out-of-home care, the Child Protection and Youth Justice systems and available resources and services in Northern Metro regions.
- Demonstrated experience and commitment to establishing and maintaining partnerships and/or collaborative work with other stakeholders, agencies and organisations to meet needs of the client group
- Demonstrated experience in designing and delivering community programs in response to needs of a client group
- Well-developed written, oral and computer communication skills including the ability to manage risk assessments and safety planning including the writing of case notes, incident reports and provide reports on the work, as required.
- Ability to work autonomously, meet deadlines in a timely manner and self-manage within a broader team.
- Proactive approach in fostering a positive, collaborative work environment, contributing to ongoing improvements, including the ability to give and receive feedback in a constructive, respectful manner.

### REQUIREMENTS

- 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.

**This is an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander designated position, classified under Section 12 Special Measures of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010. This employment opportunity is only available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.**

### POSITION ACCOUNTABILITIES

- Develop, implement, document and evaluate the Community Connections Directions Plan.
- Document and create an Outcomes Reports aligned with the plan's objectives.



- Create community connections for young people transitioning from the Out of Home Care system.
- Identify and link community members, groups, associations and businesses with the strengths, passions and goals of young people (e.g., sports, arts, education, employment, volunteering).
- Support and build the capability of key stakeholders in the care system to link young people with community resources and opportunities that assist young people to realise their strengths and achieve their goals.
- Liaise with all stakeholders to support the evaluation of the Community Connector role through the creation of Directions Plans and Outcomes Reports.
- Able to build relationships and collaborations within a short time for the benefit of young people.
- Collaborate and liaise with local partners to improve outcomes and community connectedness for young people transitioning from OoHC.
- Incorporate young people's perspectives and goals into program planning and execution.
- Meet program requirements, maintaining case records, statistics, and data gathering, as directed by Team Leader and Program Manager such as brokerage.
- Other duties as directed may be required from time to time. One of these may be one off support of young people when the case manager and or development coach may be away.

## 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.