



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position	Lakidjeka ACSASS Case Advisor	Position Number	Lak074
Reports to	Lakidjeka ACSASS Team Leader	Direct Reports	Nil
Status	Ongoing	Time Fraction	Full time – 38 hours
Award	SCHADS Level 4	Location	VACCA Ballarat Office and other VACCA locations as required

Please note: 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

OUR VISION

Aboriginal self-determination – Live, Experience and Be.

OUR PURPOSE

Supporting culturally strong, safe and thriving Aboriginal communities.

POSITION SUMMARY

The role of Lakidjeka ACSASS Case Advisor will be responsible for providing advice and support to inform the respectful engagement of families, risk and other assessments, planning, monitoring and reviews undertaken by child protection.

The role will provide an Aboriginal and cultural perspective on all risk and safety assessments, and support child protection to engage Aboriginal children and families in a fair and respectful manner to improve case management and decision-making processes concerning Aboriginal children.

The role will advocate for the rights and interests of Aboriginal children in all assessments, planning and decision making and at court as well as Support Aboriginal families to meet with child protection and understand the legal processes.



KEY RELATIONSHIPS

- Internal:* VACCA Early Intervention & Family Support, Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making, Out of Home Care & Permanent Care
- External:* Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) – Child Protection, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, Community Service Organisations & Children’s Court Victoria

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

ESSENTIAL

- Demonstrated understanding of, and commitment to, the values that underpin VACCA’ vision and purpose and the capacity to take a leadership role in championing these internally and externally
- 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
- Sound knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal culture and values and an ability to share this knowledge with child protection and other services
- Demonstrated understanding of the issues impacting on Aboriginal families that lead to child protection involvement
- Demonstrated ability to work closely with child protection and other services to advocate for the child and support the best interests of children
- Demonstrated ability to identify risk of harm to children and young people and undertake risk assessments within a cultural framework
- Demonstrated ability and experience working independently and within a small team.
- Ability to work in a pressured environment and prioritising work and meeting deadlines. Demonstrated commitment and understanding for the values that underpin VACCA’ vision and purpose.

DESIRABLE

- A tertiary qualification in Community Service, Social Work, Psychology, welfare or a related discipline is desirable.
- Experience working in the community services sector.



REQUIREMENTS

- You must have and continue to hold a full Victorian Driver's Licence, a current employment Working With Children Check card and a clear National Police Check
- Current COVID-19 vaccination (including booster dose, as applicable)

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POSITION ACCOUNTABILITIES

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- To respond to reports to Child Protection regarding Aboriginal children and young people.
- To undertake and provide input into risk assessments regarding Aboriginal children, young people and their families through consultation and advice.
- To work in strong partnership with Child Protection in line with the VACCA/ DHS Protocol 2002 and the Children, Youth and Families Act, 2005 (Vic.)
- To participate in case planning, Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making and other processes involving Aboriginal children, young people and their families.
- To undertake joint visits with Child Protective workers.
- To provide specialist advice on behalf of Aboriginal children, families and communities
- To assist in making referrals.
- To support children, young people and their families dealing with the Child Protection and court system.
- To attend the Children's Court where appropriate
- To liaise directly with other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal agencies and with government departments, such as the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service and Child Protection (DHS).
- To maintain clear, concise and accurate records of statistics, meetings and case notes.
- To be aware of and familiar with current policies, legislation, programs and practices in relation to child welfare.
- To participate in training sessions, team meetings and staff meetings.

HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING

- Ensure compliance with the OH&S Act and VACCA policies.
- 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 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.

OTHER

- Participate proactively in team project initiatives.
- Support other team members in periods of high demand and during periods of absence.
- Participate in project groups and attend events.
- Undertake other duties as directed.

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 VACCA MARAM Identification responsibilities.