

## **Position Description:**

### **Alcohol and Other Drug Outreach Worker**

**Location: 1a Badger Creek Rd, Healesville**

**Reports to: Clinical Services Coordinator**

## **Oonah Health & Community Services Aboriginal Corporation**

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The Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Outreach Worker will work closely with Oonah staff and other service providers to implement a culturally appropriate, integrated and locally based model for AOD health services. The focus will be on supporting Aboriginal people with alcohol and drug use issues to receive appropriate services and support to assist in their recovery.

The AOD Outreach Worker will report to the Oonah Clinical Services Coordinator and the CEO.

This position is full time 38 hours a week.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Healesville region of the Yarra Ranges is a stronghold of Aboriginal history and culture, which pervades its beautiful hills, lush valleys and bushland.

However, the recent history of Aboriginal settlement in the area is not so positive. The fate of Coranderrk Reserve, and the history of government treatment of its people, left a legacy that is still felt today.

The Indigenous population of Healesville and the surrounding area is about 2,500 people, many of whom are from distinct Indigenous language and cultural population groups from across Australia. The number is expected to increase to over 5,000 by 2021 (*Profile of Indigenous Representation in Eastern Metro Melbourne, Department of Justice, 2009*). Such a broad representation of different Aboriginal nationalities, aided by the legacy of Coranderrk, has created a great diversity among the local Indigenous population.

### **Oonah & The Belonging Place**

Oonah Health & Community Services Aboriginal Corporation (Oonah) was established in 2009 as Healesville Indigenous Community Services Association Inc, in response to a long-term unmet need for a clearly identified Aboriginal Belonging/Gathering Place in the outer eastern Indigenous community. Since its inception Oonah has established itself as a significant source of support for local community. Oonah is committed to providing a mix of direct and partnership-based service delivery, particularly for services that are more appropriately delivered from an Aboriginal controlled organisation and space.

The Oonah vision has remained constant with the Board and staff working towards 'A healthy, strong and skilled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community recognising the diversity in Melbourne's Outer East'

### **POSITION SUMMARY/OBJECTIVES**

- To reduce the harm caused by addiction and alcohol and drug use in Aboriginal Communities
- To support Aboriginal people with alcohol and drug use issues to receive appropriate services and support to assist in their recovery

- To support the family and community of the person who is living with addiction to provide information and support systems that aid the ongoing recovery of addicts and reduction of addiction in communities

## **POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES**

### ***Key Responsibilities***

#### **Knowledge and relationship development**

- Maintain knowledge of the issues and context regarding the local Aboriginal Community and alcohol and other drugs and trends in Local, State and Commonwealth Government planning and current affairs.
- Develop and maintain positive working relationships to strengthen existing and develop new programs with external stakeholders such as other health and community services and government departments.
- Develop strong team relationships, fostering positive relationships within Oonah and across departments.

#### **Operational**

- To engage with clients and their families, where appropriate, in a culturally safe environment to co-develop a realistic and achievable treatment plan and referral pathway.
- To walk with the client throughout the implementation of the treatment plan. This includes the provision of transport to and support at a range of services such as counselling, primary health and pharmacotherapy where required to ensure client cultural safety.
- Working with Oonah, the client and their family, and other service providers, the AoD worker will prepare a customised cultural strengthening plan linking the client into appropriate cultural strengthening programming provided by Oonah, Boorndawan or MMIGP.
- Your day-to-day duties may include but is not limited to:
  - Outreach work – visiting substance users and helping with immediate needs
  - Drop-in centre work - talking to clients about their needs and finding ways of supporting them towards recovery
  - Linking counselling and rehabilitation - giving support and dealing with the causes of substance misuse
  - Arrest referral work - supporting clients arrested for drug-related offences
  - Education and training - helping clients access services
  - Create records of each client's history and chart client progress during ongoing sessions.
  - Supporting the implementation of treatment and recovery plans, and observing each patient's psychological condition.
  - Encourage clients to meet treatment goals, as well as attend case management meetings regarding client care.
  - Consult with other professionals to assess physical and/or mental progress as they guide each client in overcoming addictions and addictive behaviours.
  - Help clients to be aware of and if necessary suggest changes in living arrangements to remove patients from negative environments and influences.
  - Where necessary support clients in aftercare programs as well, helping them to make adjustments without relying on their dependencies
- Ensure the delivery of services are aligned with Oonah case management and evaluation framework.
- Deliver services in accordance with the Workplace Health & Safety policy.
- Ensure that all services operate in accordance with the Child Protection Policy and other core policy and legislative frameworks.

## **POSITION SELECTION CRITERIA**

### ***Technical Competencies***

- Demonstrated experience working effectively and sensitively with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities & services
- Demonstrated in depth knowledge of AOD and their impacts on people and families.
- Experience in developing internal and external networks and partnering with communities in order to seek collaborative solutions.
- Knowledge and experience in implementing quality services that address AOD issues.
- Demonstrated strong interpersonal, communication and presentation skills.
- Well developed problem solving, conflict resolution and decision making abilities.
- Demonstrated sound organisational and administrative skills.
- Demonstrated competency in using databases and Microsoft Office programs.

### **Qualifications/Licenses/Requirements**

#### **Must have:**

- Equivalent to (or above) Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drugs Work or working towards
- Current Drivers Licence
- Working With Children Check
- Workplace Level 2 First Aid (desired)

### **General Conditions**

All Oonah Board members, staff and volunteers are required to:

- Model the Oonah values of Respect, Caring & Sharing
- Act at all times in accordance with the Oonah Code of Ethical Conduct
- Comply with the Work Health and Safety management system
- Undertake a police check prior to commencement and every 3 years thereafter

**Full-time, 5 days/week, 1 year's contract with the potential to be extended depending on funding. Salary: \$86,944 plus superannuation. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants are strongly encouraged to apply. Applicants must address the selection criteria contained in the position description. Email [admin@hicsa.org.au](mailto:admin@hicsa.org.au).**