

Position Description:

Social & Emotional Wellbeing Outreach Worker

Location: 1a Badger Creek Rd, Healesville

Reports to: Clinical Services Coordinator

Oonah Health & Community Services Aboriginal Corporation

The Social & Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) Worker will work closely with Oonah staff and other service providers to develop and implement a culturally appropriate, integrated and locally based model for mental health services. The focus will be on supporting Aboriginal people with mental health issues to receive appropriate services and support to assist in their recovery.

The Social & Emotional 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

- Improve the social and emotional health and wellbeing of Aboriginal communities in the outer east of Melbourne

- Enhance access to mental health services, facilitating a partnership approach with other closely connected services including social and emotional wellbeing, suicide prevention and alcohol and other drug treatment services.
- Address the underlying causes of mental illness and support clients to manage the symptoms.
- Reconnect community members to culture, land and community

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

Key Responsibilities

- To engage with clients and their families, where appropriate, in a culturally safe environment to codevelop a realistic and achievable treatment plan.
- 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 and primary health where required to ensure client cultural safety.
- Working with Oonah, the client and their family, and other service providers, the SEWB 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:
 - Visiting clients and helping with immediate needs – Outreach work
 - Talking to clients about their needs and finding ways of supporting them to improve their social and emotional well-being – Drop in centre work
 - Linking to counselling and other support services
 - Supporting clients arrested for related offences – Arrest referral work
 - Helping clients access services – education & training
 - Creating 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.
 - Encouraging clients to meet treatment goals, as well as attend case management meetings regarding client care.
 - Consulting with other professionals to assess physical and/or mental progress as they guide each client to address social and emotional well-being needs.
 - Helping clients to be aware of and if necessary, suggest changes in their day-to-day lives to remove patients from negative environments and influences.
 - Supporting clients in aftercare programs, where necessary.
- Ensure that all existing and new program initiatives are aligned with Oonah strategic priorities and follow the Oonah evaluation framework.
- Develop and implement programs in accordance with the Workplace Health & Safety policy.
- Ensure budgets are met by monitoring program budgets and managing program costs/expenses
- Ensure that all program initiatives operate in accordance with the Oonah Protecting Children 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 mental health issues and the impacts on people and families.
- Experience in developing internal and external networks and partnering with communities in order to seek collaborative solutions.

- Advanced knowledge coordinating and implementing quality programs that address mental health issues.
- Demonstrated strong interpersonal, communication and presentation skills.
- Well developed problem solving, conflict resolution and decision making abilities.
- Experience with managing and monitoring budgets.
- Demonstrated sound organisational and administrative skills.
- Demonstrated competency in using databases and Microsoft Office programs.

Qualifications/Licenses/Requirements

Must have:

- Certificate IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Care (Practice) or working towards, OR a tertiary qualification in health, social, or behavioural science, and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid OR
- ASIST Applied Suicide Intervention Training
- Current Drivers Licence
- Working With Children Check
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- 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.