

Therapeutic Life Story Work Specialist Senior Practitioner

This position is within Child & Family. It is part of various child and family services teams.

Position

- This position reports to the Team Leader
- Reporting line may vary depending on location and service size
- This position does not have any direct reports This position may have direct reports, positions vary
- This position has the following direct reports:
This position is designated Band 7 under the *Schedule of Authorities and Delegations*
- This position is a budget holder This position has designated revenue targets
- This position is an Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander identified position
- This position does require a working with children related clearance

Purpose

The purpose of this position is to increase program capacity to respond to the psycho- social needs of children and young people arising from their experiences with and removal from birth families. This role involves the delivery of Therapeutic Life Story Work and other interventions to children and their families in Out of Home Care. This role will also have a function in the delivering of training to staff and carers to increase understanding, knowledge and skills in carrying out meaningful Life Story Work with children and families in OOHC and other interventions including Therapeutic Crisis Intervention For Families. The aim of this role is to increase safety, placement stability and permanency of children and young people in OOHC.

Focus

To achieve this purpose, the position holder would typically:

- Work with a number of clients with complex needs delivering full TLSW intervention
- Support Practitioners with the skills to carry out specific TLSW interventions when required
- Give specialised input into case and therapeutic plans when required
- Attend complex case discussions regarding Children and Young People to provide a consult on interventions that may assist or promote a child's well being
- Develop and deliver training for staff and carers specifically around life story work
- Provide one to one coaching to staff when required on specific TLSW interventions for children or their carers
- Attend TCIF train the trainer to become accredited in delivering this training
- Liaise closely with the project lead for TCIF in developing an annual calendar of training and be available to facilitate this training
- Attend review meetings, case conferences, worker meetings and consultation meetings and ensure appropriate documentation is kept.
- Coach, advise and provide on the job support to Child & Family Practitioners, Counsellors, and others to better understand and apply strengths based frameworks to improve client outcomes.
- Work closely with the Manager, Practice Support, and the area management team, to evaluate learning needs and develop a range of solutions to build capability across the team.
- Maintain currency of knowledge and practice and share learnings with the team to improve practice.
- Advise the Team Leader of any significant changes or concerns regarding the client, their home environment, wellbeing, their services, or other risks, as soon as possible in the delivery of TLSW intervention
- Make child protection reports to the community services helpline when assessed as necessary, in consultation with the Team Leader or Manager
- Document work hours, kilometres travelled, reimbursements and other employee records in the timeframes

This position is offered as a specialisation:

- Therapeutic Life Story Work Senior Practitioner
- The position holder would deliver services with a particular focus on their specialisation.

When things are going well we would expect to see these outcomes:

Outcomes

- The way we work with clients with complex needs is effective and appropriate support interventions are identified
- Team members feel supported when delivering life story work interventions to clients
- Team members have improved confidence in their capability to deliver appropriate life story work and TCIF interventions when required
- The number of children receiving TSLW is increased
- There is a direct correlation in placement stability and permanency when TSLW has been completed

We work collaboratively with others, however this position works close closely with:

Relationships

Within The Benevolent Society:

- Team Leaders
- Manager, Deputy Managers, Practice Support
- Child & Family Practitioners, Counsellors, Child Development Specialists
- Support Workers, Educators

Outside The Benevolent Society:

- Clients and the community
- Other service providers and agencies
- Wrap around services such as schools, allied health

To achieve the position purpose and outcomes the position holder will need to have:

Individual

- Degree qualified in social work, early childhood, early childhood education, psychology or similar, as applicable to service and area of specialisation
- Diploma Therapeutic Life Story Work is essential
- At least 5 years experience in child and family/ child protection services including parenting assessments.
- Demonstrated experience working with high risk families, children, young people and/or families from a strengths based perspective
- Demonstrated experience, or commitment to, working in an ecological model where different services are bought together and work collaboratively to achieve the best outcomes for clients
- Excellent understanding of child protection issues and client vulnerabilities such as drug and alcohol use, domestic violence, mental health issues, and the impact of trauma and the effect on child behaviour and development
- Ability to coach, mentor, and collaborate with a range of colleagues to build understanding and knowledge and improve outcomes for clients, with the ability to adapt approach for the audience and encourage reflective practice
- Experience and confidence in delivering training to staff and others as this will form a significant part of the role
- A commitment to own learning and development with a view to sharing learnings with the team
- Understanding of the needs of diverse communities such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD), and gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) communities
- Good written and verbal communication skills
- Good relationship building skills with the ability to create strong working relationships with different stakeholders
- Ability to work flexible hours as evening and weekend work will be required

Desirable:

Qualified in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention / families

This position may require some flexibility in terms of travel or hours of work:

Travel

- Overnight travel/stays may be required
- Some weekend work may be required
- Some evening work may be required
- Travel between office locations/regions may be required
- Travel to clients (varied locations) may be required
- Use of own registered, insured motor vehicle for business purposes may be required
- Use of TBS pool cars may be required

All of us might need to travel occasionally to attend learning opportunities, meetings or other key events.

Those with knowledge of this position say the things that might make your day are:

Context

- Being able to advocate for the needs of clients
- Being able to make a difference for the client and support them to live their best life
- Seeing team members build their skills and confidence and achieve better outcomes for clients

Those with knowledge of this position say some key challenges you might experience are:

- Potentially serious consequences of decision making and its impact on clients
- Ensuring self care to prevent burn out
- Managing competing priorities and needs of stakeholders

Approvals

Approver	Director, Human Resources	Date: 13 February 2017	Position Code: CFS003
Review history	V1.0 Release		
Advertising	Senior case manager, senior social worker/ psychologist/counsellor		

This Position Profile is not intended as an exhaustive description of the position, accountabilities or associated duties. The Benevolent Society may alter or adjust this Position Profile at any time.