

Position Description

Title:	Out of Home Care Support Worker
Business Unit:	Children, Youth and Families - Out of Home Care
Location:	Gippsland Cluster
Employment type:	Casual
Reports to:	Manager – Care and Placement Services

About Uniting

Uniting works alongside people of all ages in local communities in Victoria and Tasmania. Our services reach to Albury-Wodonga in the north, Mallacoota in East Gippsland, the Wimmera region in the west, and across Tasmania.

Uniting is the community services organisation of the Uniting Church. We've been supporting people and families for over 100 years. We are 7000 skilled, passionate and creative people providing over 770 programs and services.

We empower children, young people and families to learn and thrive. We're there for people experiencing homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction or mental illness. We support people with disability to live the life they choose. We assist older people to maintain their independence and enjoy life. We provide opportunities to access training and meaningful employment. We're proud to welcome and support asylum seekers to our community. We work to empower people with the information, skills and tools they need to live a healthy, happy life.

As an organisation, we celebrate our diversity and welcome all people regardless of ethnicity, faith, age, disability, culture, language, gender identity or sexual orientation. We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as Australia's First Peoples and as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we work. We welcome lesbian, gay, trans, gender diverse and intersex (LGBTIQ) people at our services. We pledge to provide inclusive and non-discriminatory services.

Our purpose: To inspire people, enliven communities and confront injustice

Our values: We are imaginative, respectful, compassionate and bold

Position purpose

The Out of Home Care (OOHC) Support Worker is responsible for working with children and young people placed within out of home care services and programs.

This role will support children and young people with their daily living and community access and contribute to developing and implementing strategies to support positive behaviours. This position will also be part of a wider care team which has a primary focus on ensuring that the physical and emotional wellbeing of children and young people in OOHC is maximised.

Scope

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Position description

Out of Home Care Support Worker

Budget: *nil*

People: *nil*

Relationships

Internal:

- Children and Young People
- Foster Carers / Kinship Carers
- Agency staff

External

- Department of Health and Human Services
- Other community service providers as required

Key responsibility areas

Service delivery

- Support children and young people in community placements including emergency, respite, short term, long term, kinship and retainer care
- Liaise with program staff at the beginning and end of each activity
- To work as an effective team member.
- Participate in the development and implementation of a range of strategies which assist young people to address areas of difficulty in a positive manner conducive to their personal growth and development.

Administration

- Maintain current and accurate case notes, records and statistical information.
- Ensure all administrative and reporting requirements of the program are completed and submitted to the relevant organisations within the appropriate timeframe

Quality and risk

- Undertake activity responsibility for medications, finances, incidents and reporting as required
- Report incidents to program staff and management as required

Personal accountability

- Compliance with Uniting's values, code of conduct, policies and procedures and relevant government legislation and standards where relevant.
- Cooperate with strategies to actively ensure the safety, protection and well-being of children who come into association with us.
- Ensure appropriate use of resources.

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- Work collaboratively with Uniting (Victoria Tasmania) employees and external stakeholders in accordance with Uniting's values and professional standards of behaviour.
- Actively participate in initiatives to maintain, build upon and promote a positive and collaborative workplace.
- Identify opportunities to integrate and work collaboratively across teams.
- Take reasonable care for your own health and safety, and health and safety of others (to the extent required).
- Promote a positive safety culture by contributing to health and safety consultation and communication.
- Promptly respond to and report health and safety hazards, incidents and near misses to line management
- Attend mandatory training sessions (i.e. equal employment opportunity, health and safety) and mandatory training specific to position.

Person specification

Qualifications

- Diploma of Community Services or related field (working towards will be considered)

Experience

- A demonstrated knowledge and understanding of issues surrounding the out-of-home care system and the available resources and services in Gippsland.
- Ability to build rapport with and motivate young people
- Conflict resolution and negotiation skills, and the ability to manage challenging behaviours and situations

Core selection criteria

- **Values alignment:**
 - ability to demonstrate and authentically promote Uniting's values
- **Service Delivery:**
 - An awareness of child/adolescent behaviour and development
 - Ability to work autonomously whilst still achieving program outcomes.
- **Professionalism:**
 - A commitment to working within a team environment.
 - Demonstrated ability to develop creative solutions to issues that arise within the community or workplace using community development principles.
 - A professional approach to service delivery and work performance.

We are a child safe organisation

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Uniting is a child safe organisation and is committed in everyday practice to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children, at all times. As a child safe organisation, employment with Uniting is subject to a satisfactory national (and international where relevant) police check and Working With Children Check (in Victoria) and/or Working With Vulnerable People Check (in Tasmania) **prior** to commencement of any paid or unpaid work and/or participation in any service or undertaking.

This position description is subject to review and may change in accordance with Uniting's operational, service and consumer requirements.

Employee

Manager

Name:

Signature:

Date: