

## **JOB VACANCY – VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE**



Position Title:	Aboriginal Health Worker (Drug and Alcohol)
Location:	Preston (Melbourne)
Employment Status:	Full-time
Reports To:	Adult (SEW) Team Leader

### **About the Organisation**

The Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) was established in 1973 to address the specific medical needs of Victorian indigenous communities. The organisation has expanded steadily over past 40 years to provide a comprehensive range of medical, dental and social services for our community.

As well as providing a variety of medical services, VAHS is committed to supporting the well-being of the community through contributions to community events and activities. VAHS is also committed to assisting research into the ongoing needs of the community.

### **About the Opportunity**

The role of the Aboriginal Health Worker (AHW) - Drug and Alcohol is to provide activities targeted to the Aboriginal community in the Northern Region. This will involve counselling, referral and support services for Aboriginal people (youth and adult) who have alcohol and / or drug related problems. The role is to develop appropriate health promotion, education and to also provide information provision and to facilitate harm minimization concepts.

### **Key Responsibilities**

- To identify, assess, treat and support members of the community with an alcohol and drug related illness
- Conduct comprehensive assessments on clients
- Assess and document the patient's continuing needs in relation to alcohol and drug counseling and support services
- Develop treatments plans and provide effective interventions to meet the individual needs of clients, including those with complex needs, and their families.
- Promote flexible accessible referrals and where appropriate refer patients to agencies for further assessment and treatment
- Supporting clients throughout their alcohol and other drug withdrawal journey
- Provide liaison and expert advice to generalist health and welfare agencies to ensure continuity and culturally sensitive case management practices
- Regularly visit a patient admitted to a hospital and participate in the hospital decision making regarding treatment, care and discharge planning.
- Advocate on behalf of the patient where appropriate
- Facilitate social support for patients including transport where appropriate
- Provide information, education and practical assistance to clients to help them to reduce the harms of their substance use to themselves and those around them
- Build strong effective relationships with clients and their families, creating positive expectations and confidence in treatment
- Liaise with Aboriginal Community agencies and other agencies in relation to advice and resources for people with alcohol and drug abuse issues
- Work alongside Family Program's Case Managers and Clinicians

## Competencies/Experience

The successful candidate should have demonstrated competencies in the following areas:

- Demonstrated understanding of the issues associated Alcohol and Drugs and their effects on the Aboriginal community
- An understanding of the particular needs of patients and a demonstrated ability to implement and maintain culturally sensitive and appropriate health promotion and support services.
- Demonstrated ability to conduct effective counselling with the capacity to develop individual treatment plans and provide appropriate continuing support
- Previous experience working in the field of drug and alcohol counselling, education advocacy or support would be an advantage.
- Previous experience working in an Aboriginal Community Controlled organisation would be an advantage
- Demonstrated ability to provide information and educational activities to the Aboriginal Community on the issues associated with drugs and alcohol
- Ability to liaise effectively with a wide range of agencies, both mainstream and community, to develop appropriate protocols, networks, advice and advocacy.
- Demonstrated understanding of Federal and State Government departments Alcohol and Drug service delivery requirements.
- Good written and verbal communication skills
- Demonstrated high level of energy, enthusiasm, reliability, resilience and flexibility
- Demonstrated communication skills especially in the areas of communicating plans, negotiating agreements, resolving conflict and following up arrangements.
- Knowledge of and demonstrated understanding of and commitment to the principles of equity, diversity and occupational health and safety.

## Qualifications, Licenses and Registrations

- Certificate IV in Drug and Alcohol or equivalent training
- Current Victorian Drivers License, National Police Check
- Current Working with Children Check

## How to Apply

Applications can be submitted to:

Employment @vahs.org.au before 14th September 2018. Request for position description can be made via employment @vahs.org.au.

*This position is not available to persons not of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent. (Permitted under the Victorian Equal Opportunity Act 2010 s12 "A person may take a special measure for the purpose of promoting or realizing substantive equality for members of a group with a particular attribute")*