

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



Position Title: Social and Emotional Wellbeing Support Worker  
Location: Neami National Office – Fairfield  
Employment Status: Full-time until June 2024  
Reports To: Community Programs Manager

### **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.

VAHS is a child safe organisation.

### **POSITION OUTLINE**

#### **Wadamba Wilam**

The Wadamba Wilam service is a partnership of Neami National, Uniting Victoria, the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) and the Northern Area Mental Health Service (NAMHS).

The team offer a holistic, Social and Emotional Wellbeing focused, intensive outreach service to Aboriginal people aged 16 years and over in the Cities of Darebin and Whittlesea with multiple needs, including mental illness and who are homeless or at high risk of homelessness.

It is acknowledged that the mental health and Social and Emotional Wellbeing of Aboriginal Victorians today is the result of past government policies and colonisation, and the fact that Aboriginal people are more likely than other Victorians to experience on-going trauma including; homelessness, substance misuse, family breakdown, cultural dislocation, racism and discrimination, social disadvantage, and family violence.

The Wadamba team operate in a culturally sensitive manner. In the early stages, the focus is on resolving immediate needs relating to housing, health, stabilisation of Social and Emotional Wellbeing, substance use, legal issues and finances. Over time, as these matters are resolved, the approach will shift to a greater focus on healing, recovery and social inclusion. The service offers an integrated interdisciplinary team approach.

The team conduct assessments, provide clinical treatment, and recovery focused support underpinned by the Collaborative Recovery Model and the principles of Social and Emotional Wellbeing.

## Key Selection Criteria

To be considered for this role you must have the following;

- Relevant health and welfare related qualifications preferred
- A demonstrated understanding and knowledge of contemporary Aboriginal culture including the key issues affecting Aboriginal people and their families living in the community who are homeless/at risk of homelessness.
- Knowledge and experience of the broader health and mental health issues impacting on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community
- Ability to communicate and engage in a culturally responsive manner with Aboriginal people and all relevant agencies
- A sound understanding of the issues surrounding homelessness and a commitment to working with people who are disadvantaged within the community.
- An ability to work sensitively and effectively with people who are homeless and in housing crisis
- An understanding of the specialist homelessness system in the northern metropolitan region including current forms of housing assistance
- Well-developed interpersonal communications, advocacy, negotiation and conflict management skills.
- Proven ability to work collaboratively within an interdisciplinary team and contribute to a positive team culture.
- 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.
- Demonstrated ability to work in partnership with a range of stakeholders, including clinical and non-clinical staff and clients carers, family and/or friends.
- Knowledge of and demonstrated understanding of and commitment to the principles of equity, diversity and occupational health and safety.

## How to Apply

Please send your application, which must include a cover letter, resume and responses to the selection criteria, via [employment@vahs.org.au](mailto:employment@vahs.org.au) before Thursday 5pm, 9 September 2021.

Request for position description can be made via [employment@vahs.org.au](mailto:employment@vahs.org.au)