



FAMILY ACCESS NETWORK INC

Family Access Network is committed to providing a child safe environment

POSITION: Volunteer Child Play Supervisor

REPORTS TO: The Co-ordinator, Volunteer Program

ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT:

Family Access Network (FAN), providing services to young people since 1981, is committed to responding to the diverse needs of homeless and at risk young people and young families. Our service philosophy is underpinned by a client focussed rights-based approach, and operates in the belief that timely intervention maximises positive outcomes.

FAN's vision is for a community which acknowledges and values the dignity and worth of all citizens and enables individuals to deal positively with adverse situations in their lives. We contribute to this vision by providing support for homeless young people, including those pregnant and/or parenting and couples and accompanying children, in the form of access to accommodation and support options enabling them to achieve stability and empowerment to full independence.

FAN's Homeless Support Services (HSS) provides support to young people between the ages of 15-25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The client group consists of single young people, young same sex attracted transgender and intersex young people, young pregnant and parenting women and young families and accompanying children.

As part of HSS and through the Youth Homelessness Action Plan 2 (YHAP2) initiative funding, FAN offers the Private Rental Brokerage Program to assist and equip young homeless people to access, sustain and maintain private rental accommodation as a long-term option. FAN's Private Rental Brokerage Program provides services across the Cities of Whitehorse, Boroondara, Monash and Manningham.

The Children's Program – Early Years funded through The Alfred Felton Charitable Bequest provides the means to offer on-site children's worker resources to develop an integrated children's program including brokerage and equipment for accompanying children. The scope for the program is to ensure FAN's services, office site(s), equipment, policies and interagency processes are informed by a commitment to child-centred practices and philosophy.

The Life Skills Program funded through The William Buckland Foundation, City of Whitehorse, the Rotary Club of Box Hill and The Lord Mayors Charitable Fund, offers a variety of workshop based activities for at risk young people to learn new skills in a personal development framework. Volunteer Mentors, Child Play Supervisors, Lead Tenants and the Volunteer Support Team are recruited to assist in supporting clients and accompanying children including related activities attached to the Life Skills Programs.

Volunteers will be required to commit to FAN's Service Philosophy, Core Principles and Service Objectives and align their work to the organisation's practices, protocols and strategic objectives.

ROLE:

Child Play Supervisors engage in a range of child friendly, age appropriate activities with children while their parents attend appointments, meet with Support Workers or participate in workshops attached to various FAN Programs. These meetings are most often conducted onsite and in most cases are during business hours.

FAN has a team of professional workers that respond to the therapeutic needs of young people, including accompanying children and Child Play Supervisors provide a positive adult role model in the context of everyday social activities and interaction, not the role of a social worker, psychologist, babysitter, disciplinarian, family counselor or alternative parent.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. To ensure children are appropriately supervised at all times
2. To ensure the needs and wishes of the parents and children are respected at all times.
3. To engage in a range of age appropriate activities with children
4. To ensure occupational health and safety standards are consistently adhered to
5. To show respect for and understanding of children's individual needs.
6. To adhere to Family Access Network's program boundaries and guidelines.
7. To be accountable to the Co-ordinator of Volunteer Program.

FAVOURABLE ATTRIBUTES:

1. Some experience and a genuine interest in the care and well-being of children.
2. Patience, understanding, acceptance, compassion, the ability to listen.
3. Ideally to be over the age of 25.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE POSITION:

1. Minimum twelve month commitment.
2. Prepared to undertake appropriate references, Working with Children and Police Checks
3. Days and time of meetings are to be negotiated between FAN staff and volunteer.
4. FAN is committed to providing and supporting a child safe environment and acceptance as a Child Play Supervisor is determined by successful completion of all components of the volunteer screening process.
5. All Child Play Supervisors are required to undergo Volunteer Induction Training and to attend regular meetings.
6. A three month probationary period is a condition of employment.

Please sign and date this form in acknowledgment that you have read and understood the above.

Name: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____