



## **FAMILY ACCESS NETWORK INC**

***Family Access Network is committed to providing a child safe environment***

**POSITION: Volunteer Lead Tenant**

**REPORTS TO: The Co-ordinator, Volunteer Program**

### **ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT:**

Family Access Network's (FAN) 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 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 pregnant and parenting women and young families and accompanying children. The Program is funded by Department of Human Services (DHS).

As part of HSS and through the recent Youth Homelessness Action Plan 2 (YHAP2) Initiative funding, FAN has established a Private Rental Brokerage Program to assist and equip young homeless people to access, retain and maintain private rental accommodation as a long-term option. FAN's Housing Support Worker – Private Rental will work across the Cities of Whitehorse, Boroondara, Monash and Manningham.

The Children's Program – Early Years funded through The Alfred Felton Charitable Bequest provides a part time early years children's worker and 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 the Life Skills Programs and include supporting young families to participate in related activities at FAN.

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:**

The aim of the Lead Tenant is to provide friendship and support to young people aged between 15-25 years who may benefit from the live in presence of a positive adult role model. The emphasis is on providing a settled environment consistent with the needs of students and/or younger clients.

FAN has a team of professional workers who respond to the therapeutic needs of young people and Lead Tenants provide a positive adult role model in the context of everyday social activities and interaction and as such, the Lead Tenant is not a social worker, psychologist, babysitter, disciplinarian, family counselor or alternative parent to the young person.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. To participate in house meetings which are convened by FAN workers supporting clients residing in the property.

2. To develop a supportive friendship with young people showing respect for and understanding of individual needs.
3. Provide positive role modeling to tenants including actions, language and behaviour consistent with anti-discrimination legislation.
4. Recognise that young people residing in the property have the same rights under the Residential Tenancy Act as they would have in a private rental situation. This includes showing respect for privacy.
5. To adhere to Family Access Network's program boundaries and guidelines.
6. To act as Mentor for young people and encourage new experiences and opportunities and to be a link to the wider community.
7. To be accountable to the Co-ordinator of Volunteers.
8. The Lead Tenant is also responsible to the Program as its representatives in the community.

**FAVOURABLE ATTRIBUTES:**

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

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE JOB:**

1. Minimum twelve month commitment is required including trial period
2. A two probationary period is a condition of employment and either party can give one months notice if not suitable
3. This is a live in volunteer position
4. FAN is committed to providing and supporting a child safe environment and acceptance as a Lead Tenant is determined by successful completion of all components of the volunteer screening process.
5. All volunteers are required to undergo Volunteer Induction Training and to attend regular meetings

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_