



## **FAMILY ACCESS NETWORK INC**

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

**POSITION: Volunteer Mentor**

**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 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:**

The aim of the Volunteer Mentor is to act as a neutral and consistent role model and provide friendship and support (on a one to one basis) to a young person between the ages of 15-25 years. Mentors and young people meet on a weekly basis – at a time and place that is mutually agreed - and engage in a range of low cost activities that build positive adult relationships and community connection.

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

### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. To develop a supportive friendship with a young person showing respect for and understanding of their individual needs.

2. To adhere to Family Access Network's program boundaries and guidelines.
3. To act as Mentor for the young person and encourage new experiences and opportunities and to be a link to the wider community.
4. To be accountable to the Co-ordinator of Volunteers.
5. The Mentor 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.
4. To have access to a reliable motor vehicle.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE JOB:**

1. Minimum twelve month commitment.
2. A minimum of two hours contact per week.
3. Days and time of meetings are to be negotiated between the young person and the Mentor.
4. FAN is committed to providing and supporting a child safe environment and acceptance as a Mentor is determined by successful completion of all components of the volunteer screening process.
5. All Mentors 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: \_\_\_\_\_