



Worawa Aboriginal College

Residential Youth Worker Position Description

1. TITLE: Residential Youth Worker

2. REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS:

Reports to: Head of Boarding.

Internal Liaisons: Academic staff, other Boarding staff, School Nurse and MH & Wellbeing Coordinator.

3. CONTEXT:

Worawa Aboriginal College is Victoria's only registered Independent Aboriginal School. An Aboriginal Community initiative, the College is governed by an Aboriginal Board and management. A full boarding school, Worawa caters for Aboriginal girls in the middle years of schooling (Years 7-10) through a holistic education based on an integrated education, culture, mental health and wellbeing model. Students are drawn from Aboriginal communities across Australia. Currently the College has a boarding capacity of 65 students.

4. WORAWA MISSION:

- (a) To provide an appropriate mainstream education to enable students to attain the confidence, knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to become fully contributing members of Australian society
- (b) To provide students with a sense of their Aboriginal identity, knowledge of their history, confidence in their place as First Australians; and to build their self esteem as a basis for success in their chosen life pursuits.
- (c) The task of Worawa Aboriginal College is to nurture and develop the abilities of its students, to demonstrate positive role modelling and build in each student a sense of responsibility for their behaviour and for their fellow human beings.

5. STUDENT PROFILE:

Students at Worawa may be considered "at risk". Some of the risk factors experienced by Aboriginal girls entering Worawa include one or more of the following: Physical or sexual abuse, exposure to violence, high levels of trauma, lack of adequate parental supervision, neglect, a close family member's drug or alcohol problem, a family breakup, changing family circumstances due to a parent taking on a new partner, family chronic illness, a close family member going to prison, school truancy and / or lack

of engagement, anti-social peer groups and /or peer pressure to engage in crime or lack of access to positive activities.

6. THE RESIDENTIAL SETTING:

The residential setting consists of 5 houses and accommodates a maximum of 83 students.

7. THE POSITION:

- This position, in conjunction with other residential team members is responsible for maintaining a safe, secure and respectful residential environment in keeping with the Mission of Worawa College.
- This position reports directly to and is supervised by the Head of Boarding.
- This position must work within the professional, ethical and legal requirements as set out in the Worawa Staff and House Parent Handbooks.

8. RESPONSIBILITIES:

8.1 Residential Care:

- Ensure successful daily (after-hours and weekend) operations of the house including agreed programs and student compliance of house rules, which includes keeping the house in a clean and orderly manner.
- Monitor levels of student behavior and activity to ensure a safe environment.
- Accompany and supervise the students on any after-hours and/or weekend activities as part of the Residential Program as required.
- Provide culturally sensitive supervision and support of students while in the residential setting.
- Ensure the goals of the student's agreed behavioural management plans are maintained within the residential setting.
- Respond to critical or emergency incidents that may occur within the residential setting in accordance with organizational policies and procedures.
- Undertake independent living skills assessments where appropriate.
- Assist the student's to develop routines around independent living and social skills.

8.2 Communication and Liaison:

- Monitor levels of student behavioral activity and report any untoward and/or emergency situation to the Head of Boarding immediately.
- Liaise with relevant team members and others on the progress and outcome of student mental health, behavior and wellbeing.

8.3 Documentation and Reporting:

- Receive a verbal handover from the Head of Boarding or other appropriate staff at the commencement of each shift.
- Provide a verbal handover/report to the Head of Boarding or other appropriate staff at the completion of each shift.
- Undertake required documentation of student's behavior, mental health and wellbeing in a timely manner.
- Report any difficulties with and/or any unsafe use of equipment, furniture or any aspect of the Residential facility to the Head of Boarding in a timely manner.

9. INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS:

- An ability to relate to others and a high level of interpersonal skills.
- Assertive and respectful communication skills.
- Sensitivity towards the needs of others.
- An ability to remain calm in and manage crisis situations.
- Experience in working within a team.

10. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Attend relevant professional development activities.
- Keep up to date with changes to procedural and/or organizational requirements as directed.

11. QUALIFICATIONS, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE:

- Bachelor of Social Science (Youth Work), Diploma of Community Services (Youth Work), Teaching, Social Work or similar qualification.
- Experience in working with adolescents in a residential or school setting is essential.
- Demonstrated ability to work as a member of a team.
- A current Victorian Drivers license.

12. DESIRABLE:

- Level 2 First Aid Certificate or willingness to obtain same.
- Experience in working with Indigenous people/communities
- Medium rigid license (for driving school buses)

13. SALARY AND CONDITIONS:

- To be negotiated in line with qualifications and experience in accordance with the Educational Services (Schools) General Staff Award 2010
- The successful applicant must undergo a Working with Children Check.

14. CONTRACT:

- Minimum employment period subject to the six months minimum employment period as contained in the Fair Work Act 2009

15. HOURS:

- Full Time and Part-time Positions are available.
- Hours of work:
 - After hours:
 - Weekend:

16. LOCATION:

- Healesville, Victoria