

Position Description

Title: Youth Development Specialist (Boys and Young Men)

Salary: \$51,292- \$62,000 per annum Pro rata depending on qualifications and experience. The Venny Inc is a charitable organisation and offers Salary Packaging Benefits through Community Business Bureau. cbb.com.au

Employment Type: PT Fixed term contract until 30 June 2020

Time Fraction: By negotiation Up to 16 hours per week.

Work Location: The Venny, 85 Kensington Rd, Kensington.

Approved by: Kirsty Ellem, Acting General Manager.

The Venny was established in 1981 and is a free communal backyard and adventure playground designed for children and young people aged 5 to 16 years. It is situated in JJ Holland Park, adjacent to the Kensington housing estate. The Venny is a unique community cultural space that supports intercultural play, therapeutic support and social cohesion. The Venny caters to the particular needs of children and young people who are experiencing social disadvantage and trauma in complex family environments. Mental illness, unemployment, drug and alcohol addiction, family violence, disability, ethnicity, cultural difference, refugee experiences and socioeconomic disadvantage are commonly experienced in these families. The Venny helps to build bridges of trust, increase life opportunities, build socio emotional capacity for children and young people and break the cycle of intergenerational disadvantage.

The Venny's mission is to engage vulnerable children and young people in prevention and early intervention play based education and support programs within a therapeutic environment made up of trees, plants, vegetables, food, water, fire, sand, earth and animals. Our vision is a community where all children and young people have the capacity, support and networks to participate fully in life and make positive and healthy choices.

Position Summary

The Youth Development Specialist (Boys and Young Men) will provide therapeutic support and mentoring to young men who attend the Boys Group on a Friday night and engage with children and families who engage with the Venny. The role will include one-to one support and facilitated workshops to build the young men's interpersonal, socio-emotional skills and community connections. The role will also include stakeholder management, partnership development, report writing and program development.

Reporting Lines

Reports to: Acting General Manager
Supervises: Playworkers
Internal Relationships: Program Manager
Business Development Manager
Playworkers

External Relationships: Children and young people
Parents and community members
Primary and Secondary Schools
Other youth and community organisations
Police and other support services
Funding bodies

Organisational Accountabilities

The Venny is committed to the health and safety and wellbeing of its staff. The Venny and its staff must comply with a range of statutory requirements, including equal opportunity, health and safety, privacy and child safety. The Venny also expects staff to comply with its policy and procedures, which relate to statutory requirements and our ways of working. Appointees are accountable for completing training on these matters and ensuring their knowledge, and the knowledge of their staff, is up to date.

Key Accountabilities

Program design and management

- Deliver on the goals of the program and meet contractual obligations
- Contribute to the ongoing development and improvement of the program working collaboratively with young people and The Venny team.

Individual and group therapeutic support

- Working within The Venny's therapeutic support framework, design and deliver one-to-one and group skills building activities based on the needs of the young people
- Support young people to develop their own project ideas and realise them
- Work closely with Playworkers to develop a positive group culture and program

Partnership/ Stakeholder Relationship management

- Working with partner organisations to recruit young people to the program and support their ongoing engagement
- Ongoing reporting to The Venny management, Board and funding bodies

Participant Engagement

- Proactive and constructive engagement of young people
- Design and implement activities, programs, and opportunities for play, skill development and mentoring that meet young peoples' needs
- Identify community needs and adapt program where necessary

Administrative Duties

- Attend regular Venny staff meetings, and professional development as required
- Read and add to the communication diary pertaining to issues with local children and families
- Writing project plans, collaborate on grant applications and acquittal reports
- Managing program budget

Key Selection

- An understanding of child and youth development in a community context, and experience in using a strength-based approach in working with children and young people. Strong interpersonal skills relating to engaging children/young people, their parents/carers, community and other influential stake holders.
- Ability to implement behaviour support strategies, particularly preventative approaches including a willingness to play. This includes experience and leadership with conflict resolution such as responding to aggressive behaviour and/ or violence.
- An understanding of trauma informed practice and experience in applying it with diverse children and young people.
- Demonstrated experience in team leadership, developing and administering programs, tracking and reporting on programs and budgets.
- Relevant qualifications in youth work, social work or community development, or community arts development and demonstrated significant experience working with children and/or young people.
- Current Level 2 First Aid Certificate, Working with Children Check and Police Check

Desirable

- Speak any of the following languages Somali, Arabic, Amharic
- Food Handling Certificate