

YOUTH WORKER or SOCIAL WORKER – STUDENT SUPPORT

Applicant Information

Applications should be addressed to Lisa Wilson, Principal, River Nile School at admin@rivernileschool.vic.edu.au and be received by 6th December 2019.

While the application closing date is Friday 6th December, given the end of the school year, earlier applications are encouraged. For short-listed candidates, our preferred interview day will be Thursday 12th December (however a fall back date the following week may be considered if needed). The preferred start date for the successful candidate is 28 January 2020, but there is flexibility for a start date after this time.

Context, position description and key selection criteria.

The River Nile School (RNS) is a specialist, independent, inclusive, senior-secondary school, delivering Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) curriculum to young refugee and asylum seeker women, who have had disrupted schooling or are struggling to cope with mainstream school. We are also a registered charitable organisation that delivers everything we do with our students for free.

At RNS we change students lives through a personalised approach to learning, using specialist English as an Additional Language (EAL), applied-learning pedagogy. Our professional team take on an authentic mentoring approach, empowering students to address the complex challenges and trauma in their lives by building respectful relationships which strengthen their wellbeing, engagement and learning achievements. Each student is supported to plan a career pathway specific to their aspirations and goals as they transition from our school.

Based in North Melbourne, 2020 will be our fourth year as a school. RNS grew out of the River Nile Learning Centre (RNLC) which was established in 2006 to assist the African refugee community. We've grown substantially since then and our student cohort now consists of young refugee and asylum seeker women from across the globe. As a rapidly growing unique school, we are striving to build strong foundations for future development in this vital educational space for empowering young migrant woman, who are among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our country. We receive significant funding due to disability, particularly social-emotional trauma, to support our many individualised learning interventions.

School website: www.rivernileschool.vic.edu.au

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The **Youth Worker / Social Worker – Student Support** will play a critical role in supporting our student to engage / re-engage in their education and provide supports to help resolve complex and practical personal challenges to remove barriers to this. You will have the ability to work effectively in a dynamic, professional team environment, striving to ensure our long term learning vision, values and goals are aligned with our practice.

Specific Areas of Responsibility

Work collaboratively with the RNS team to:

- Provide trauma-informed, student-centred intake, outreach, engagement, incidental counselling and practical support to River Nile students, as required.
This includes practical support such as navigating Centrelink, managing formal paperwork, housing, MYKI's and decision making.
- Ensure daily attendance follow-up and recording.

- Assist in coordinating the referral of students to external specialist professional agencies (e.g. CoHealth, Headspace etc), in consultation with school leadership and teachers.
- Facilitate access to appropriate services, e.g. FrontYard, L2P program etc., in consultation with the teaching team.
- Support teachers to implement agreed evidence-based strategies while in the classroom.
- Provide targeted case and in-class support to identified students. This includes:
 - Attending and Minuting care team meetings for identified students;
 - Providing student support in the classroom and in one-on-one counselling sessions, if needed, to develop rapport, provide therapeutic support and inform and support teacher practice;
 - Supporting students requiring extensive learning adjustments to participate in VET and co-curricular programs held off-site from the school;
 - Provide outreach to students who require advanced re-engagement strategies; and
 - Monitor and facilitate the Individual Education and Learning Plan (IELP) for identified students who are eligible for disability funding, including attending teacher-student conferences.
- Develop and/or facilitate programs/activities that foster positive life skills including financial literacy, resilience and recreational as well as work readiness skills (including assisting students prepare CV's, job applications and for job interviews), in conjunction with the teaching team.
- Ensure accurate records are kept of supports and interventions provided for identified students – these should be documented in formal student notes, within the established school student record management systems.
- Contribute to the support of pathways and transition of students.
- School resource and organisation support and other duties that are within the level of the position and scope of the incumbent's competencies and training.
- Compliance with ALL RNS Policies, Procedures and Codes of Conduct, especially for Staff and Child Safety. Adherence and commitment to the professional code of ethics and practice for social or youth work (e.g. Australian Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics or Youth Affairs Council Victoria Code of Ethics).

Key Selection Criteria – Capabilities

- Demonstrated experience in working with, empowering, developing and delivering social-welfare supports and programs for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) students and/or communities; and especially experience in individual support (as the majority of RNS student support will be one-on-one).
- Demonstrated track record in building and maintaining networks and partnerships with external agencies and stakeholders to achieve practical and meaningful social-emotional and wellbeing supports for young people.
- Demonstrated experience in organising and coordinating wellbeing and therapeutic learning activities.
- Demonstrated excellent documentation, written and verbal communication skills
- Demonstrated capacity to develop constructive relationships with students, parents/guardians/carers, staff and external agencies.
- Demonstrated knowledge in working with adolescents and young adults from marginalised, disadvantaged and/or refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds.

Qualifications, Experience & Credentials

- Relevant tertiary qualifications in Social Work, Youth Work, Community Development or similar.
- ~3-years relevant experience, including working with CALD students or communities with complex needs. Experience in a flexible school setting highly regarded.
- Working with Children Check and 100-point Proof of Identity required (at interview stage of employment process)
- Evidence that applicants have completed training in all aspects of Child Safety.
- Minimum two referees, including current or most recent employer (timing of contact can be discussed).

Employment Conditions

- Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience; access to the tax-effective salary packaging; training and development opportunities; supervision and employee assistance program and a workplace supportive of work/life balance.
There is flexibility for the right candidate for this to be a 4-5 day per week role.
- Appointment of the successful applicant will be subject to a satisfactory Pre-Employment Disclosure Declaration and checks.
- A 6-month probationary period will apply and induction and professional support programs will be provided.
- The position reports to the Assistant Principal, or nominated supervisor.

OTHER INFORMATION

Applications

- Must address the Key Selection Criteria and Position Description.
- Resumes must summarise relevant experience and qualifications and provide key personal details and evidence of Working with Children Check registration and child safe standards training.
- The names and contact details of three referees, including current or most recent employer.
Please note referees will not be contacted without the applicant being advised and we reserve the right to contact additional referees beyond those you name if required.
- Please use size 11 Calibri font size with 1.5 spacing.

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