

Senior Social Worker

Department for Child Protection

OFFICIAL

*Nurturing happy, healthy kids so they
can grow up safe and reach their full potential.*

CLASSIFICATION:

AHP2

DIRECTORATE:

Specialist Practice

REPORTS TO:

Supervisor, MAPS

FTE:

1.0

ROLES REPORTING TO THIS ROLE:

Nil

ABOUT THIS ROLE:

The Senior Social Worker, Multi Agency Protection Services (MAPS) is a role within the Department for Child Protection (DCP) and is accountable to the Supervisor, MAPS, for providing high quality and effective social work service to support daily operations within a multi-agency setting. The role is responsible for fostering good working relationships, assessing the needs of children and families, providing consultation, advice and training to DCP, other Government and non-Government agencies and workers and promoting the programs of the department.

YOU WILL BE ADDING VALUE BY:

1. Contribute to the development and implementation of ongoing improvements to MAPS operations, processes and policies.
2. Demonstrate professional social work practice by enabling the full range of culturally acceptable intervention methodologies with a focus on holistic assessments, early intervention and diversion in a multi-agency setting.
3. Utilise relevant assessment and practice approaches and evidenced based research to inform good social work and culturally inclusive practice.
4. Build, strengthen, manage and maintain positive and collaborative working relationships with relevant agencies in the child protection, family violence and child welfare areas so there is increased capacity to respond to identified needs and manage risk issues.
5. Utilise critical and sensitive information to guide DCP and other professionals in practical strategies and timely coordinated responses to reduce the escalation of risk for people experiencing Domestic and Family Violence and child protection concerns.
6. Conduct complex assessments in a child-centred manner.
7. Contribute to the protection of children, evaluate the risk of harm, failure to protect and harm to self and other people and ensure that all matters regarding the care and management of children are reported in line with departmental policies and procedures.
8. Assess and balance risk and protective factors within a child protection framework.
9. Provide written and verbal reports which are concise, informative and based on an analysis of evidence gathered this includes being a witness in court proceedings.
10. Work in a culturally safe manner and provide services that are inclusive of Aboriginal people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as engaging in learning about other cultures, to better establish relationships and improve services.
11. Take action and provide services that are inclusive of Aboriginal people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds as well as engaging in learning about other cultures to better establish relationships and improve services.
12. Any other responsibilities in line with the classification level of the role as assigned by Line Manager and/or the Department. The responsibilities as specified above may be altered in accordance with the changing requirements of the role.
13. Contribute to maintaining a safe and healthy work environment by taking personal accountability by identifying and reporting incidents, hazards, and injuries in accordance with DCP policy & procedure and cooperating and complying with reasonable instructions of DCP line management and WHS Officers.



Government of South Australia
Department for Child Protection

WHO YOU WILL WORK WITH:**Internal**

- Supervisor (direct line manager)
- Management and staff within the MAPS office and across the Department for Child Protection
- Lead Practitioner, Principal Aboriginal Consultants and Practice Leaders

External

- Interagency staff within the Multi Agency Protection Services
- Other government and non-government agencies involved in management of services to children and young people

QUALIFICATIONS

Essential: A degree level qualification in Social Work which gives eligibility for full membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers.

Persons of Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, who have the appropriate background and skills but do not have the essential qualification, may apply for and be engaged/assigned to the role of Social Worker and will be entitled to apply for any Allied Health Professional roles requiring a qualification in Social Work within the Department for Child Protection.

YOUR CAPABILITIES:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of children and young people particularly in regards to developmental stages, vulnerability and resilience.
- Ability to clarify situations, act impartially and use influence, negotiation and persuasion to effectively mediate the conflict and devise a workable solution.
- Demonstrated ability to provide written and verbal reports which are concise, informative and based on an analysis of evidence gathered.
- Demonstrated ability to manage workloads, organise and plan work activities taking in to account the need to prioritise tasks and responsibilities.
- Ability to develop and maintain strong working relationships with people both within government, non-government sector and community.
- Demonstrated ability to apply culturally sensitive child protection practice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and community from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- Demonstrated knowledge and commitment to promoting and creating a safe and inclusive work environment.



OUR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Maintain accurate and complete records in accordance with the *State Records Act 1997* and departmental policies, procedures and practice guidance.
- Understand and follow the requirements of confidentiality within the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017*, and whole of government and DCP policies, procedures and practice guidance to facilitate appropriate standards of confidentiality and information sharing practice.
- Actively participate in performance development processes.
- Comply with reporting obligations arising from legislation, professional conduct standards including the Code of Ethics for the South Australian Public Sector, and departmental policies, procedures and practice guidance.
- Undertake mandatory training activities as specified with the DCP Mandatory Training Procedure.
- Actively contribute to Reconciliation, and to the aims and objectives of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle.
- Demonstrate a commitment to preventing gendered violence against women consistent with DCP's status as a White Ribbon Accredited Workplace.
- Maintain the Program Standards of White Ribbon Reaccreditation.
- Actively support DCP's commitment to ensuring a workplace culture that is respectful, safe and inclusive where our employees are free from discrimination and are recognised for the individual and collective skills and perspectives that they bring by virtue of culture, race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, intersex status and other differences.
- Act at all times in accordance with the Code of Ethics for the South Australian Public Sector and legislative requirements including (but not limited to) the *Public Sector Act 2009* and *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- You must have, or gain, a current Department of Human Services working with children check prior to being employed and renew this every five years before expiry.
- You must be an Australian resident or provide evidence that you have a current work permit.
- You will need to undertake training in Child Safe Environments – Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect and other mandatory training as required.
- The incumbent will be required to achieve performance targets as negotiated and mutually agreed with the Supervisor.
- You may be required to perform duties in other locations/divisions/units dependent upon Departmental requirements.



YOU WILL CONTRIBUTE TO



OUR VISION is for all children and young people to grow up safe, healthy, connected and feeling loved so they reach their full potential.



OUR PURPOSE: The Department for Child Protection protects, cares for and empowers children and young people at risk and in care. We do this by working together with our key partners to respond to abuse and neglect, keep children and young people safe from further harm, help them heal from trauma and reach their full potential.



Leaders in practice excellence

Staff in all parts of child protection develop and use best practice in their work to deliver improved outcomes for children, young people, carers, and families.



Closing the Gap

We commit to a transformed child protection system that makes active efforts and where Aboriginal people and communities are empowered to lead decision making about the care and wellbeing of Aboriginal children and young people.



A child protection system that meets the needs of children and young people

We commission and deliver services based on a deep understanding of the needs of children and young people in care and our aspirations for them to heal from trauma and reach their full potential.



A thriving workforce

We are future focused in our workforce strategy, supporting and valuing our staff, proactively recruiting, and establishing sustainable systems, processes and workplaces that enable us to be highly effective.



Active and collaborative partnerships

We work together with our service partners and alongside the community to improve outcomes for children, young people, carers, and families.



Working alongside carers

We respect and value carers as vital partners in keeping children and young people safe and well.



Quality services and safeguarding

We are accountable and transparent, and pursue continuous improvements to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people throughout the services we fund and provide.

CERTIFIED CORRECT JULY 2026



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