

Residential Care Placement Manager

Department for Child Protection

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

CLASSIFICATION:**AHP4/PO4****DIRECTORATE:****Residential Care****REPORTS TO:****Director, Residential Care****FTE:****1.0****ROLES REPORTING TO THIS ROLE:****Nil****ABOUT THIS ROLE:**

The Residential Care Placement Manager is responsible for providing high quality, clinical placement assessments as they pertain to children and young people requiring a placement in Residential Care. This includes leading assessment discussions with relevant stakeholders, scoping residential care vacancies, analysing options with often limited information, and producing collaborative solutions in consensus. The role is responsible for applying a trauma-informed lens through a therapeutic model of care, providing guidance on referral and escalation pathways and assessing the viability and suitability of placement matching and outcomes being considered.

YOU WILL BE ADDING VALUE BY:

1. Provide leadership of placement decisions for young people entering Residential Care and movement of young people within Residential Care.
2. Embed high quality placement assessments and collaborative decision-making processes for children and young people requiring a residential care placement, inclusive of leading consultations, information gathering and dissemination and driving best practice.
3. Collaborate with key stakeholders, particularly in relation to projects and consultations that target supporting young people to safely move from their Residential Care home.
4. Ensure documentation of assessments and consultations are completed and appropriately communicated to provide accountability and transparency for decision-making.
5. Provide timely response to all placement matters relating to Residential Care and referring or escalating matters to key stakeholders as appropriate.
6. Promote and reinforce professional ethics and standards in clinical and operational decision making.
7. Maintain high quality, up-to-date clinical matching criteria information for residential care placements and work with DCP Placement Services Unit to support placement referrals and support assessments for referrals that meet criteria for Residential Care placement, in line with practice guidance.
10. Model continuous learning and professional development in providing consultation and support to Residential Care, Case Management Placement Services teams.
11. Demonstrate a high level of cultural competence, commitment to Reconciliation and active efforts to uphold the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle including engagement and consultation with cultural advisors and authorities.
12. Ensure provision of services which enhance outcomes for clients of the agency and in particular, improve placement outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people and children from CALD backgrounds.
13. Contribute to a work environment where staff are challenged and actively encouraged to develop their understanding of placement decision-making processes.
14. Contribute to strategic leadership and business planning across DCP.
15. Manage multiple effective work relationships with internal and external stakeholders.
16. Support exploration and development of alternative models of Residential Care that best meet the needs of young people.
17. Work alongside Residential Care partners in the non-government sector to support consistent approaches to emergency placement decisions, matching criteria and trauma-informed decision making



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8. Demonstrate commitment to self-determination and actively amplify the voices of children and young people to ensure their views and wishes are considered and, as much as possible, they are empowered in to make decisions about their own lives.
9. Provide timely and evidence-based advice to management and key stakeholders across government on placement assessments, risks, operational issues and emerging trends.
18. 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.
19. 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.

WHO YOU WILL WORK WITH:

Internal

- Director, Residential Care (line manager) and Executive Director, OoHC
- Managers and leadership and staff across Residential Care and DCP
- Placement Services
- Clinical Lead Residential Care and Aboriginal Clinical Lead

External

- Other Government and non-Government departments

QUALIFICATIONS

For those employees classified at AHP

Essential:

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

For those employees classified at PO

Essential:

- Appropriate degree qualification in Community Services, Social Sciences, Human Services, Health or related field

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 (DCP).

YOUR CAPABILITIES:

- Demonstrated ability to engage in evidence based, accountable and ethically sound trauma-informed practice.
- Extensive experience in a residential care or placement assessment capacity, leading key decision makers to ensure sound clinical assessments are made.
- Demonstrated and sophisticated understanding of the range of issues and systems affecting children and young people requiring care and protection, including the impact of vicarious trauma as it pertains to children and young people, carers and staff.
- Demonstrated experience in applying the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle and ability to work collaboratively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in a culturally safe manner.



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- Demonstrated commitment to pursuing improved outcomes for children and young people, and their families and carers by providing high quality consultation services.
- Proven high quality interpersonal and communication skills, particularly in clarification, negotiation and mediation of complex problems.
- Demonstrated experience in establishing and maintaining a professional learning and development environment including leading and engaging in reflective supervision in a child protection context.
- Demonstrate 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.
- Some intra/interstate travel (including in a small aircraft) including overnight stay may be required.
- Some out of hours and weekend work may be required.
- Hold a current Australian issued driver's licence (P2 or above) and a willingness to drive is essential.
- The incumbent will be required to achieve performance targets as negotiated and mutually agreed with the Director, Residential Care.
- 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: June 2026



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