



## YOUTH SUPPORT PRACTITIONER

<b>Base Location:</b>	Atherton Office	<b>Reports To:</b>	CEO
<b>Region:</b>	Tablelands	<b>Industrial Instrument:</b>	VPG Collective Agreement
<b>Resources:</b>	Work Computer, Work Mobile	<b>Expected Salary Range:</b>	\$72,000 - \$78,000 + PBI Benefits valued up to \$15,900

### About us

VPG is a non-profit organisation that has been improving child and youth transitions in Far North Queensland for over 23 years. With 5 Centres in Cairns, Yarrabah, Innisfail, Atherton & Mareeba, we have assisted thousands of young people. We seek to empower youth, strengthen families and build the capacity of education, industry and communities through quality partnerships. [www.vpginc.com.au](http://www.vpginc.com.au)

### About our thinking

VPG uses the concept of Advantaged Thinking to direct the way we work with young people. VPG acknowledges that young people have a vital contribution to make to the social and economic life of our communities and society, and that to do so all young people should have access to the opportunities and social networks that facilitate this social and economic participation. VPG invests in building young people's abilities, harnessing them for personal as well as social good.

By making a positive investment in young people, the approach focuses on developing their assets, and on co-creating solutions – real jobs, real education and real community connections – to enable them to achieve independent adulthood.

### About our values

At VPG our exceptional organisational culture is aligned to our values. You will be part of a team that is **compassionate, generous, inclusive, responsible** and **fun** and we expect you to demonstrate these behaviours throughout your career with us.

### About the service and role:

1. You will work within a dynamic Tablelands Youth Support team delivering youth support services to children & young people; through our three-phase youth support model encompassing: (approx. 0.5 Allocation)
  - Comprehensive Assessment, Referrals and Guidance
  - Co-designed Support & Engagement Plan
  - Support/Activity Facilitation
2. You will work within our partnered Secondary School support team delivering services to enrolled young people to: (approx. 0.5 Allocation)
  - Build the capacity of young people to actively participate in education and transition into and through to senior years.
  - Contribute to a supportive school environment.
  - Connect young people and their families with information, services and community connections to support school engagement.

### Key Responsibilities – Service Delivery

- Act as a participant focused, values based team member and work collaboratively with staff within our Advantage Thinking approach.
- Implement solutions within the three-phase model of practice including psycho-social assessments and support interventions, advocacy, brokerage and referral.
- Provide interventions to children and young people in crisis.

- Facilitate access to services inclusive of drug/alcohol, mental health, housing, legal, domestic & family violence, general health, budgeting and debt management.
- Support young people to identify goals and develop engagement plans with concrete actions and responsibilities
- Support young people to self-motivate, self-navigate and to build networks to develop personal, practical, agency and relationship skills.
- As required provide non-therapeutic counselling in response to children/young peoples needs.
- Identify and establish peer support groups as needed for children/young people who share common experiences to improve social connections.
- Connect young people to activities tailored to their strengths as well as the local educational and economic context.
- Facilitate access and connection with services that improve psycho-social education & interpersonal skills, work readiness, vocational skills and employment.
- As directed prepare and deliver innovative group workshops and psycho-social programs to develop children/young people's skills/capabilities.
- Maintain a participant load, including plans, notes, appointments, placements and other administrative tasks ensuring quality, efficiency and effectiveness in the management of data.
- Transport children/young people to assigned appointments, services, learning programs and activities.
- Support schools & communities to improve the wellbeing of children and young people.
- Undertake assertive outreach activities to identify and engage children/young people.
- Deliver community education in the area of child/youth development and wellbeing.
- Actively seek and develop working relationships and networks with community stakeholders
- Provide quality information relevant to young people's needs and goals.
- Contribute to the design and development of resource materials for use in the delivery of the program.
- Contribute to the ongoing promotion of VPG services via social media, good news stories, reports.
- Maintain confidentiality and privacy in all matters relating to staff, participants and procedures.
- Assist in the preparation and presentation of applications, reports, submissions and recommendations as directed.

## **Key Responsibilities – Integrity & Productivity**

- Ensure behaviour during all work interactions is aligned to our values of being compassionate, generous, inclusive, responsible and fun.
- Comply with all VPG policies and procedures.
- Actively contribute and participate as a VPG team member across all programs exchanging ideas and information on a regular basis.
- Maintain and develop your professional skills, seeking opportunities to ensure a high level of technical proficiency and personal effectiveness.
- Fulfil other tasks that VPG leadership reasonably asks you to perform.
- Maintain an understanding of all VPG services to confidently communicate with and promote to external stakeholders.
- Understand the nature of risk when undertaking daily duties and the importance of complying with relevant legislation and service standards, reporting any known breaches to their Manager.
- Undertake a range of duties to ensure the smooth running of VPG Centres including but not limited to reception, washing up, emptying rubbish, putting away equipment, checking mail, maintaining vehicles, purchasing supplies.

## About you

### Qualifications

- A tertiary qualification in Allied Health, Social Work, Psychology or equivalent post graduate qualifications.

### Mandatory Requirements

- A current QLD Driver's License.
- Current Clear Australian Police Check provided prior to commencement.
- Eligibility for a Suitability Card for Child Related Employment (Blue Card registration)
- Strong computer competency across Microsoft applications and ability to touch type.

### Desirable Skills and Experience

- A high level of cultural awareness.
- Well-developed communication, problem solving and interpersonal skills.
- Experience in working with young people using a positive and proactive approach.
- Experience/skills in facilitating group work/training.
- Exposure/experience in case management (collaborative practice)
- Strong reflective practice skills.

## Applying

All applicants must submit their applications in PDF format, by email to our Executive Assistant, Angela Wienert, [angela@vpginc.com.au](mailto:angela@vpginc.com.au)

You will only be considered by providing the following information in your application:

1. Current resume.
2. Copies of all qualifications held.
3. A covering letter detailing your interest in the role.

Role Mandates can be downloaded from our website [www.vpginc.com.au](http://www.vpginc.com.au)

We conduct interviews during business hours 8:30am – 5pm. Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted regarding their application

Nb. This role is named differently internally.