



SOCIAL WORKER/PSYCHOLOGIST/CHILD-YOUTH PRACTITIONER (Atherton)

Base Location:	Atherton Office	Reports To:	Service Coordinator
Region:	Tablelands, Mareeba	Salary Package:	\$72,000 - \$80,000 + up to \$15,900
Classification:	SWO YSO		Salary Tax Benefits + 10% Super
Term:	Fixed Term Contract		commensurate with experience
		Industrial Instrument:	VPG Collective Agreement
		Relocation Support:	See Policy on VPG Website

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

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 should have access to the opportunities and social networks that facilitate this social and economic participation. By making a positive investment in children/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:

You will work within a dynamic Tablelands team across our two services including:

1. School Wellbeing Service offers supports to school students Prep to Year 7 (0.4 Allocation approx.) You will work within our partnered schools support team delivering services to children/young people.
 - Equip children with skills and knowledge that support learning, positive behaviour and constructive social relationships.
 - Deliver social skills programs in response to specific needs.
 - Build the capacity of children/young people to engage effectively in learning.
 - Contribute to a supportive school environment.
 - Engage with families connecting them with information and support services.
2. You will work within a dynamic Tablelands Support team delivering support services to children & young people; encompassing: (approx. 0.6 Allocation approx.).
 - Comprehensive Assessment, Referrals and Guidance.
 - Co-designed Support & Engagement Planning.
 - Support/Activity Facilitation.

N.B This role may accommodate a part time worker – please submit your requests within your cover letter for consideration.

This blended role has been designed to provide:

- Variety – keeps the work interesting, prevents task monotony and burnout
- Impact – balances out intensity of roles
- Growth – provides opportunities for learning and collaboration within different environments

Key Responsibilities – Service Delivery

- Act as a participant focused, values based team member and work collaboratively with staff within our Advantage Thinking approach.
- Support schools & communities to improve the wellbeing of children and young people.
- As directed prepare and deliver innovative group workshops and psycho-social programs to develop children/young people's skills/capabilities.
- Provide interventions to children and young people in need.
- Assist to coordinate support for parents and families as required.
- Actively seek and develop working relationships and networks with community stakeholders as part of VPGs information strategy.
- Support children/young people to self-motivate, self-navigate and to build networks to develop personal, practical, agency and relationship skills.
- Implement solutions within the model of practice including psycho-social assessments and support interventions, advocacy, brokerage and referral.
- Support young people to self-motivate, self-navigate and to build networks to develop personal, practical, agency and relationship skills.
- Identify and establish groups as needed for children/young people who share common experiences to improve social connections.
- Facilitate access and connection with services that improve psycho-social education & interpersonal skills, work readiness, vocational skills and employment.
- Maintain a participant load, including plans, notes, appointments, placements and other administrative tasks ensuring quality, efficiency and effectiveness in the management of data.
- As directed transport children/young people to assigned appointments, services, learning programs and activities.
- Undertake assertive outreach activities to identify and engage children/young people.
- As directed improve community education in the area of child/youth development and wellbeing.
- 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, community/school events.
- 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 Social Work, Psychology or equivalent/relevant university 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.
- Queensland Government Public Health Directive requires mandatory COVID Vaccinations for workers within Schools.

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.
- Exposure/experience in case management (collaborative practice).
- Strong reflective practice skills.
- Experience/skills in facilitating group work.

Nb. This role is named differently internally.

Applying

All applicants must submit their applications in PDF format, by email to our Junior Executive Assistant, Kaytlin Campbell, kaytlin@vpginc.com.au

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

1. Current resume and cover letter briefly addressing the mandatory and desired skills & experience. Please include your motivation for applying for the role.
2. Copies of all qualifications held.
3. A covering letter detailing your interest in the role and how you meet the responsibilities/attributes.

We conduct interviews during business hours 8:30am – 5pm. Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted regarding their application. Please note VPG will be closed from the 23rd December through to the 4th January 2022.