

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

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Position: **Family Counsellor (CALD)**  
Reporting to: **Senior Family Counsellor / Centre Director**

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Jannawi Family Centre Incorporated is an independent community organisation that has provided services to vulnerable children, families, and communities in Sydney since 1978.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the role is to support women, children and young people who have experienced domestic, family and/or sexual violence. The role is responsible to the Centre Director for the assessment, case management, advocacy, counselling and group work with referred families. The worker will respond to the needs of referred children and their families either at the centre, in their home, or in the community.

The Centre Director appoints the Family Counsellor who works closely with the Senior Family Counsellor in the ongoing case management and therapeutic interventions with families.

### SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED

- A. Knowledge of the dynamics & consequences of interpersonal violence such as child abuse (including neglect), domestic, family and sexual violence. Understanding of legislation in the areas of Child Protection, Domestic, Family & Sexual Violence.
- B. Experience in counselling families where people have experienced trauma, children are 'at risk', have been abused or neglected or families experiencing family & sexual violence.
- C. Knowledge and understanding of reporting procedures to the Child Protection Helpline, Department of Community Services; the Role of Departmental caseworkers and the Children's Court; Interagency Guidelines; the role of violence prevention services such as WDVCS, Courts, DV Line and Out of Home Care providers.
- D. Knowledge of local health, housing, legal and welfare services appropriate to the needs of families impacted by violence and abuse
- E. Knowledge and experience in working with parents individually and in groups to enhance life skills and parenting skills, especially within a child safety framework.

### OUR VALUES



F. Commitment to strength-based approaches and understanding of the impact of trauma on women, children and young people.

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. In close consultation with the Senior Family Counsellor, assess the needs of referred families; develop written family agreements and ongoing case plans to address issues, concerns and readiness of referred families.
2. Address issues impacting on the family dynamics, the safety concerns, parenting role and their ability to care for their children. E.g. family violence and safety issues, isolation, communication, extended family and social support networks and budgeting.
3. Provide individual, sibling and family counselling relevant to the needs and readiness of referred families.
4. Plan, Implement and evaluate parent's groups to address life issues impacting on parents, specific parenting difficulties and child protection concerns.
5. Work with the Child Development Workers to co-run groups for school age children in the program; co-run specialist play sessions in a group setting for parents and their young children; or implement practical parenting plans in the family's home or local community. Focus on parent-child interaction and the practical application of new ideas for non-abusive parenting skills.
6. Co-ordinate regular progress reviews and therapeutic letters, and the development of ongoing team case plans involving Jannawi workers and other relevant services.
7. Maintain client files and records which outline attendance, issues and concerns addressed, changes and developments in families as they progress towards identified goals.
8. Regularly attend and actively participate in supervision through the identification of positive achievements in the work, and any issues and concerns for direction or guidance in the work with clients and the program development.
9. Attend case conferences and encourage inter-agency co-operation to facilitate a co-ordinated approach to meeting the needs of referred families and their children. Report outcomes and decisions from these meetings to Centre Director and team case planning meetings.

## OUR VALUES



10. Consult with, refer and advocate on behalf of the family re their needs and involvement in appropriate services.  
E.g. early childhood centres; general health and welfare assistance; emergency accommodation; priority housing; other support services etc.
11. Provide transport for referred families where appropriate to ensure access to Jannawi and to other relevant community resources and services as needed.
12. Attend child & family; domestic violence interagency meetings as directed by the Centre Director.
13. Other duties as requested from time to time by the Centre Director.

### **QUALIFICATIONS/PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- Relevant tertiary qualification and/or equivalent level of experience across required areas of expertise. This includes Social Work, Counselling or Social Sciences qualifications.
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience in working with people who have lived with interpersonal violence such as child abuse (including neglect), domestic, family and sexual violence.
- Experience in counselling families where people have experienced trauma or where children are at risk of significant harm.
- Effective oral and written communication skills.
- Knowledge and experience in client advocacy and support.
- Experience working as part of a multi-disciplinary team.
- Solid understanding of the range of issues involved in working with individuals from CALD, CARM and Indigenous backgrounds.
- Current driver's license.
- Criminal History Check and Working with Children Check.

### **OUR VALUES**

