



Family Support Newcastle
your family, our community

Information Package
Children's Specialist Worker - Waratah

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Family Support Newcastle
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Children's Specialist Worker

This is a great opportunity if you have a passion for supporting the wellbeing and healthy development of children?

Would you like to make a difference to the lives of vulnerable children?

Work in a closely connected and supportive team?

We are recruiting for a worker to provide therapeutic support to children who have been exposed to the trauma of domestic and family violence. This newly created position is for 30 hrs per week and paid at Grade 5 of the SCHADS award, with above award conditions.

Applicants will have demonstrated extensive experience in working with children who have experienced trauma, in child development and working to promote change with vulnerable families. The work includes some home visiting, centre based work and delivery of evidence-based parenting group programs.

FSN is an EEO employer. We encourage people of Aboriginal or Culturally and Linguistically diverse backgrounds to apply.

We would like to offer you the opportunity to come to a 'meet and greet', to find out more about our organisation. Please feel free to drop into our Waratah Family Centre at 2 High Street on Tuesday 20 September between 3:00 - 4:00pm.

For an information package please email reception@nfss.org.au; visit our website www.nfss.org.au; or call 49263577 for further details.

You *must address the selection criteria* (in the Information Pack) to be considered for the position. Please email your resume and application to shellier@nfss.org.au;

Closing date for applications: 5pm Monday 26 September 2022.

Selection Process & Application Details

The Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act specifies that before FSN can employ you we are required to conduct a Working with Children Check.

FSN will also require you to sign a declaration that you have not been charged with or convicted of any action that could be considered to make you unsuitable to work with children or vulnerable adults.

Applicants will be selected for interview on the basis of how well their applications address the selection criteria. When the positions have been filled an eligibility list may also be created. Other positions, either casual or ongoing that become available in the next 6 months may be filled from this list.

Application Details

To apply please apply, **addressing the selection criteria which are in the Information Package**, by email to shellier@nfss.org.au; or call 4926 3577.

*** In your application please address the essential criteria for the position and include your Resume and phone contact for at least two referees who can talk about your ability to meet the criteria.**

Applications close 5pm Monday 26 September 2022

FSN - An Overview

Family Support Newcastle (FSN) has operated since 1979 to assist families with children in their care.

The service operates within a philosophy of empowerment through participation in decision making. This philosophy informs all aspects of the service. Clients are encouraged to participate in decision making about the service.

We strive to be open and accountable at all levels. We encourage families to ask questions about the running of the service and to contribute their ideas.

This philosophy also influences the process of decision-making and model of leadership. It involves consultation, honesty, vulnerability, openness and reciprocity between families and workers and between staff members.

We are strongly influenced by feminist thinking that recognises an imbalance of power between men and women. This has resulted from oppressive social structures that force men and women into particular roles. These roles result in men having the public and influential voice, and women the domestic voice. These positions are false and antagonistic. The objectification of women and gendered violence are two significant and harmful outcomes. Both men and women have much to gain from addressing this inequality.

We note that for Aboriginal men and women, this intersects with the impact of colonisation in separating Aboriginal people from their lore, language and culture. The cultural oppression has disempowered both men and women.

The organisation currently operates six projects from two locations in the Newcastle area. We receive approximately \$2m in funding from Federal and State funding providers. Services that we provide include domestic violence services, specific services for fathers and as well as services for families with children.

Our commitment to Aboriginal People

We acknowledge the history of invasion and subsequent colonisation of this country and the impact this has had on its peoples.

We acknowledge that this is, always has been, and always will be Aboriginal land.

Our commitment is to:

- Provide a respectful, safe and welcoming environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Provide services appropriate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Aboriginal agencies.
- Proudly and visibly support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights and openly challenge racism in ourselves and others.
- Develop Aboriginal cultural competence.
- Respectfully learn from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, recognising that this is a life long journey.

We have processes in place to regularly and openly measure and review our effectiveness in implementing this commitment.

MISSION, VISION and VALUES

MISSION

Family Support Newcastle provides services that promote the well-being of children and their families, of individuals, and communities. We often work in partnership with other services to provide more options for the families we support. We are inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from other culturally diverse backgrounds and those who experience discrimination and disadvantage.

We contribute by providing services which promote the well-being of children and their families, individuals, and communities. We particularly aim to reach those who experience ongoing hardship.

We provide services that include:

- Counselling and individual assistance either in the home or at a centre
- Support to families, with a child centred focus
- Therapeutic group programs with associated child development activities
- Supported playtime activities
- Support to women leaving domestic violence.

We aim to work in ways that are mutually beneficial to families, staff and the whole community and that encourage participation of families and staff in decision making. Our work is built on a strong social justice foundation.

VISION

Communities that are just, safe, strong and connected, providing opportunities for *all* families, individuals and children to grow and live well. Communities where history is acknowledged and healing is supported; where diversity and creativity are embraced and encouraged.

VALUES

The safety and wellbeing of children and families are at the centre of everything we do

Integrity

Generosity

Diversity

Justice

OUTCOMES STATEMENT

We want children and young people to be:

- Resilient, happy, capable and healthy
- Part of strong, fair, supportive and safe families and communities

Position Description Children's Specialist Worker

Reports to	Team	Location	Position Status	Remuneration
Team Leader	Children's Specialist Worker – SHLV & FSN	Waratah Family Centre	Part-time (30h)	Level 5 PP 1 - 4

PURPOSE

THE PROGRAM

This is a newly created position and is funded by Staying Home Leaving Violence (Department of Communities and Justice) and by Family Support Newcastle. It is primarily a therapeutic role providing support to children and their family where domestic and family violence is, or, has been present. Support includes home visiting, counselling, group work and some case management, while working in collaboration with other FSN teams, including SHLV, IFP and FSP.

OVERVIEW

The Children's Specialist Worker will participate in teams that brings creativity, enthusiasm and optimism to the work. Through direct work with children, families and on occasions, collaborative working relationships with external agencies, they will ensure that FSN provides excellent services that make a significant difference to the lives of all family members.

The service has significant emphasis on the provision of services to families experiencing ongoing hardship. The role requires a solid understanding of and ability to work with the issues that confront families who are disadvantaged.

SPECIFIC TASKS

Service Delivery

Provide services in a manner consistent with FSN Organisation Practice Model.

Use FSN case management processes for all clients when appropriate.

Provide direct service to children and their families both individually and in groups. This may be provided through home visiting, centre appointments, family centre activities and group programs in the centre.

In consultation with the team leader, make appropriate referrals and participate in relevant case meetings.

Team Participation & Work Management

Contribute to the ongoing development of a dynamic, creative and cohesive team with solid, equitable and honest relationships.

Use supervision, professional development and FSN performance accountability processes to enhance outcomes for families.

Program Outcomes

Contribute to the development of appropriate planning and accountability processes.

Contribute to the development of specific evaluative processes as required.

Collect program data and contribute to using the data to improve the service to children and families and to develop more efficient and effective practices.

FSN EXPECTATIONS

1. Work to promote the vision and mission of the organisation
2. Work within the philosophy and values of the organisation
3. Abide by the Code of Behaviour, confidentiality and all policies and procedures of the organisation. Comply with all statutory provisions applicable to the position and the organisation
4. Implement the FSN commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People
5. Participate as an active member of the FSN team assisting in other appropriate tasks and activities, working consultatively and co-operatively with other staff, and if required, volunteers and management committee members
6. Contribute to the maintenance of an organised, safe and inviting work environment
7. Attend and participate in scheduled meetings and staff development activities
8. Ensure that your working relationships are based on equality between all team members
9. Liaise professionally with other relevant government and non-government services
10. Establish respectful, genuine relationships with client families where appropriate

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential Requirements

1. Tertiary qualification relevant to the role, e.g. Psychology, Social Work, Early Childhood Education
2. Extensive experience in providing therapeutic support to children and their families
3. Solid knowledge of child development and wellbeing
4. Demonstrated experience in facilitating and evaluating evidence-based children's and parenting groups
5. Demonstrated experience in working with vulnerable families and communities including where there has been family and domestic violence and where children are at risk of harm
6. Professional values that are consistent with FSN values
7. Highly developed written and verbal communication skills including case notes and reports
8. Thorough understanding of the barriers that Aboriginal Australians experience and a commitment to addressing these
9. A high level of computer proficiency, including data bases

Approvals/licences

- Fully vaccinated for COVID-19
 - Current WWCC
 - Criminal Records Check
 - Current licence and comprehensively insured vehicle
 - Must be available to work Mondays
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