

Practice Leader

STATEMENT OF DUTIES

JULY 2021

Number	Generic
Portfolio	Keeping Children Safe
Branch	Services for Children and Families
Section/Unit/School	Child Safety Service
Supervisor	Practice Manager
Award/Agreement	Allied Health Professionals Public Sector Union Wages Agreement
Classification	Allied Health Professional Level 3
Employment Conditions	Permanent, Full-time 76 hours per fortnight, 52 weeks per year including 4 weeks annual leave.
Location	Statewide
Check Type	Schedule 1
Check Frequency	Pre-employment

Context

Department for Education Children and Young People (DECYP) brings together a range of functions, programs and initiatives aimed at enhancing and improving the lives of all Tasmanians. To create strong, inclusive and proud communities the Department will collaborate with our community-based partners to empower individuals and families throughout Tasmania to lead fulfilling lives.

DECYP provides opportunities for all Tasmanians to participate in community life and sport and recreation; supports, protects and nurtures vulnerable children, young people and their families; delivers and facilitates specialist disability services; and provides services to support social and affordable housing. The services of DECYP are based in all major centres throughout Tasmania, therefore some roles may require intrastate travel.

DECYP creates an environment where children's safety and wellbeing is the centre of thought, values and action - we are responsive to the needs of families and communities that we engage with. We are a child safe organisation that puts the safety of children and

young people first, creating a culture, adopting strategies and taking action to promote child wellbeing and prevent harm to children and young people.

Primary Purpose

Lead, support, encourage and represent Child Safety Officers and Support Workers openly and consistently in the day to day delivery of services to children, young people, parents and carers. The Practice Leader acts as a role model for their team and the broader service.

Level of Responsibility/Direction and Supervision

- The Practice Leader works autonomously with supervision provided by the Practice Manager and has overall responsibility for the health and safety of those under their direction, providing supervision in an efficient, effective and safe manner.
- Delegations and decisions have a major impact on the operations of the work area and on the operation of the Agency. Responsible for the coordination of human, physical and financial resources of a team within the Child Safety program.
- The Practice Leader undertakes delegations within legislative requirements, set guidelines and time frames, including specific work health and safety responsibilities.
- Maintain any workplace under their control to a standard that complies with the Tasmanian Work Health and Safety Act.

It is the responsibility of the occupant to actively participate, promote and model behaviours which are consistent with the Department's commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. This includes the prevention, identification and reporting of child abuse and behaviours which are not consistent with the Department's values.

The occupant is responsible for complying with all Agency policies and procedures, including those relating to fraud and corruption control, record management, confidentiality, conduct and behaviour, mandatory reporting, education, training and assessment.

The Department has a range of delegations across the operational portfolio's which include Finance, People Services and Support (HR) and Facilities. The occupant is responsible for ascertaining the delegations that are assigned to these duties and is expected to exercise any applicable delegations prudently and in accordance with a range of Acts, Regulations, Awards, administrative authorities and functional arrangements.

Primary Duties

1. Provide day-to-day professional practice guidance, leadership, supervision and direction to Child Safety Officers and Support Workers and facilitate a reflective learning culture within the team and broader service.

2. Model the Signs of Safety and Child Safety Practice Principles ensuring the respectful behaviour shown to staff and service partners reflects the approach taken with families and carers.
3. Develop and maintain appropriate and effective relationships with government and non-government service partners in all regions and work collaboratively with the leadership team, to foster relationships with key service partners, to achieve best outcomes for children, young people, parents and carers.
4. Work closely with the Manager - Service Development and Practice Manager in the efficient management of human resources to ensure a full complement of Child Safety Officers and Support Workers are available to fulfil service commitments to children, young people, parents, and carers.
5. Provide a leadership and mentoring approach that grows the capacity of each member of the team, through routine observation and feedback to reinforce formal and informal learning and through regular team/group supervision.
6. Support a learning culture through the provision of professional mentorship for new and current staff to enable them to identify and plan their own professional development and effectively respond to practice challenges.
7. Lead the team's engagement in regular casework reflection and planning, collaboration and consultation, modelling practice leadership and promoting practice accountability.
8. Support the occurrence of shared decision-making forums including Care Teams and weekly team consultations, leading and facilitating forums as required.
9. Oversee legal intervention processes including the preparation of court reports and affidavits and coordinate information flow and presentation of reports and cases to a multi-disciplinary assessment committee.
10. Role model quality practice with children, young people and families who present as critical and complex, enabling the team practice to grow and improve.
11. Facilitate quality improvement activities in everyday client work, including conducting regular client surveys and appreciative inquiry activities and cooperate with all quality improvement initiatives as required including engaging in serious case review and regular client file audits.
12. Ensure the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable people you may be working with (including children and young people) and immediately report any concerns, disclosures, allegations or suspicions of harm. Actively participate in and contribute to practices that will ensure Department for Education Children and Young People is a child safe organisation including reporting, record keeping and information sharing obligations.
13. The incumbent can expect to be allocated duties, not specifically mentioned in this document, that are within the capacity, qualifications and experience normally expected from persons occupying positions at this classification level.

14. In accordance with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012* the incumbent will actively participate in and contribute to the maintenance of safe working conditions and practices, including the development and implementation of improvement initiatives, safeguarding practices and all mandatory training requirements.

Selection Criteria

The following specific selection criteria must be addressed by candidates. The nominated position objective and duties contained in this statement of duties must also be used to assist in the interpretation of these selection criteria.

1. Significant post graduate experience in the delivery of services to children, young people and their families with complex needs.
2. Evidence of contemporary experience and skill in leadership and the provision of supervision that promotes reflective practice.
3. High level knowledge and understanding of contemporary child protection practice and the capacity to support service reform.
4. Demonstrated contemporary leadership and management skills in an environment where there is a high degree of uncertainty and ability to use professional confidence and authority to ensure effective and efficient service delivery.
5. Demonstrated strategic, conceptual, analytical and creative skills, including an ability to understand and identify relevant issues in the political, social and organisational environment.
6. Demonstrated evidence of highly developed interpersonal and oral communication skills, including the ability to build productive relationships with stakeholders and effectively communicate and resolve complex issues under general direction.
7. A demonstrated capacity to commit to the Department's values, with the ability to apply them through individual behaviours and actions.

Requirements

Registration/licences that are essential requirements of this role must remain current and valid at all times whilst employed and the status of these may be checked at any time during employment. It is the employee's responsibility to advise the Department if there is any change to the status of a registration/licence. This includes notifying the Department of any new criminal charges or convictions and/or if a registration/licence is revoked, cancelled or has conditions applied.

Essential

- Current Tasmanian Registration to Work with Vulnerable People (Registration Status – Employment)
- A tertiary qualification approved by the relevant National Board, for example a Bachelor of Social Work, and eligibility for

membership with the relevant National Board or professional association; or

- An alternative tertiary qualification (AQF Level 7 Qualification) in a discipline considered relevant to the duties, for example Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Psychology, Bachelor of Youth Work, Bachelor of Psychological Science; or
- An Associate Degree, Advanced Diploma or Diploma (AQF Level 5 or 6 Qualification) in a discipline considered relevant to the duties, for example a Diploma in Community Services.
- Current Driver's Licence
- The Head of the State Service has determined that the person nominated for this job is to satisfy a pre-employment check before taking up the appointment, on promotion or transfer. The following checks are to be conducted:
 - 1 Conviction checks in the following areas:
 - a) crimes of violence
 - b) sex related offences
 - c) serious drug offences
 - d) crimes involving dishonesty
 - e) serious traffic offences
 - 2 Identification check
 - 3 Disciplinary actions in previous employment check

Working within the Department for Education, Children and Young People

Our values of **Connection, Courage, Growth, Respect, Responsibility** represent the foundation of our Department's culture and guide us in all that we do to ensure **Bright lives. Positive futures** for every child and young person in Tasmania.

We bring our values to life through our everyday behaviours and actions. We want to attract, recruit and retain people who uphold these values and are committed to building a strong values-based culture.

Our Department is committed to building inclusive workplaces and a workforce that reflects the diversity of the community we serve. We do this through a culture that ensures everyone is respected, and has equal access to opportunities and resources. We recognise and respect individual differences as well as people's career path, life experiences and education, and we value how these differences can have a positive influence on problem solving, team dynamics and decision making within our organisation.

We are committed to providing a safe workplace for all employees and have zero tolerance to all forms of violence, including child abuse and harm. The Department is a smoke-free work environment, and smoking is prohibited in all State Government workplaces, including vehicles and vessels.

Employment within the Department is governed by the *State Service Act 2000*. All employees are responsible for ensuring that the standards of behaviour and conduct specified in the State Service Principles and Code of Conduct are adhered to. All employees are expected to act ethically and with integrity in the undertaking of their duties. Employees who breach the code of conduct may have sanctions imposed.

The State Service Principles and Code of Conduct are contained in the *State Service Act 2000* and can be found on the State Service Management Office website at <http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/ssmo> together with Employment Direction No. 2 *State Service Principles*. All employees must read these and ensure they understand their responsibilities.

All employees are expected to utilise information management systems in a responsible manner in line with the DECYP Condition of Use policy statement located at [Department for Education, Children And Young People: Information technology policies](#)

Commitment to Children and Young People

This is a Department built entirely for children, young people and their communities. Our ultimate goal is to work together to ensure that every child and young person in Tasmania is known, safe, well and learning. The child is at the centre of everything we do, and the way we do it.

The Department is committed to providing a culturally safe environment which upholds the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people in Tasmania. The Department's Safeguarding Framework, *Safe. Secure. Supported.* underpins this commitment.

All employees must demonstrate and model behaviours which value and respect children and young people, show a commitment to child safety and wellbeing, and display an understanding of the developmental needs of children and culturally safe practices relevant to their position.

APPROVED BY PSS DELEGATE: Assistant Director Strategic Recruitment and Payroll
Operations – July 2021
Request:
Date Duties and Selection Criteria Last Reviewed: 07/21 DCT
