

## Social Worker

STATEMENT OF DUTIES		February 2021
<b>Number</b>	Generic	
<b>Portfolio</b>	Schools and Early Years	
<b>Branch</b>	Specified Learning Services	
<b>Section</b>	Student Support	
<b>Sub-Section/Unit/School</b>	N/A	
<b>Supervisor</b>	Senior Social Worker	
<b>Award/Agreement</b>	Allied Health Professionals Industrial Agreement	
<b>Classification</b>	Level 1-2	
<b>Employment Conditions</b>	<p>Permanent or fixed-term, full or part-time, up to 76 hours per fortnight, 52 weeks per year including 4 weeks annual leave. Interstate and intrastate travel may be required.</p> <p>Social Workers are part of a state-wide public education system and may, in accordance with the provisions of the State Service Act 2000, be transferred to any other location on a temporary or permanent basis. If permanently transferred to meet departmental requirements, reasonable expenses will be met.</p>	
<b>Location</b>	As Specified	
<b>Check Type</b>	N/A	
<b>Check Frequency</b>	N/A	

### Primary Purpose

Work in schools as a member of a multi-disciplinary team to provide a social work service which supports students and families. Contribute to capacity building of school communities to improve access, participation and achievement of students.

## Level of Responsibility/Direction and Supervision

Responsible for the professional management of the assigned caseload. The officer is responsible to the Supervisor and Student Support Leader for the effective delivery of social work services within the Learning Service and assists in the delivery of, as required, professional activities for social workers. The officer is a mandatory reporter under the Child Protection Act and an authorised person under the Education Act. An officer at Level 2 performs a variety of tasks of a novel, complex or critical nature, and exercises independent professional judgment to resolve complex problems or issues.

The Student Support Leader provides broad direction for Learning Service operational issues and the Department of Education Strategic Plan. Assigned school Principals provide general direction to the occupant. The occupant is expected to act independently on a day to day basis and work with minimum direction. The occupant receives direction from the senior social worker on portfolio leadership.

The Department has a range of delegations in operational areas including Finance, Human Resources 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 any specified limitations.

## Primary Duties

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1. Provide professional and direct advice and services such as counselling, mediation, advocacy, advisory and information for schools, students and families/caregivers to improve students' well-being, access and participation outcomes.
2. Undertake duties as required pursuant to being an authorised officer under the Education Act 2016, and mandatory requirements under other Acts relevant to the Department.
3. Participate as a member of a multi-disciplinary team and contribute to the implementation of the Department of Education Strategic Plan
4. Provide support in response to crucial incidents and emergencies
5. In accordance with departmental guidelines, provide mentoring and support to colleagues.
6. Collect, collate and maintain student information and records to meet legislative and DOE requirements to inform research and policy development.
7. 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.

## Selection Criteria

Employment in the State Service is governed by the *State Service Act 2000* and employment decisions must be based on merit. A decision relating to appointment or promotion is based on merit if:

- an assessment is made of the relative suitability of the candidates for the duties; and
- the assessment is based on the relationship between the candidates' work-related qualities and the work-related qualities genuinely required for the performance of the duties; and

- the assessment focuses on the relative capacity of the candidates to achieve outcomes related to the duties; and
- the assessment is the primary consideration in making the decision.

Work-related qualities might include; skills and abilities; qualifications, training and competencies; standard of work performance; capacity to produce required outcomes; relevant personal qualities; and demonstrated potential for future development.

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. Ability to interact and work effectively in the three different modes of social work practice, individual, group and community, in an educational environment.
2. Ability to utilise appropriate resources to assist students and families.
3. Ability to relate to students, parents, schools and sound oral and written communication and interpersonal skills.
4. Proven organisational and problem solving skills, and the ability to work as a member of a multi-disciplinary team.
5. Proven ability to work in an inclusive educational environment.

## Requirements

Registration/licences that are essential requirements of this role must remain current and valid at all times by the occupant who is assigned these duties. The status of these essential requirements may be checked at any time during employment. It is the employee's responsibility to ensure that registration/licences remain current and to advise the Department if their circumstances change. This includes notifying the Department of any new criminal charges or convictions and/or if a registration/licence is revoked, cancelled or has its conditions altered.

### Essential

- The *Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013* requires persons undertaking work in a regulated activity to be registered. A regulated activity is a child related service or activity defined in the *Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Regulations 2014*. This registration must remain current and valid at all times whilst employed in this role and the status of this may be checked at any time during employment.
  - Current Tasmanian Registration to Work with Vulnerable People (Registration Status – Employment)
- Tertiary qualification/program of study accredited by the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) and is a full member of AASW or is eligible for membership with the AASW.

### Desirable

- A current driver's licence.

# Working within the Department for Education, Children and Young People

The Department is responsible for the following areas within Tasmania

- Tasmanian Government Schools
- Child Safety
- Youth Justice
- Out of Home Care
- Libraries Tasmania
- Child and Family Learning Centres.

This is a department built entirely for children and 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.

We work collaboratively across disciplines to combine knowledge, experience and ways of working to benefit children and young people.

However, we are a new Department – established in October 2022 – and we are still working together to build our Strategy and our culture and values. This work will be continuing into 2023, and we want all staff to be involved in this.

## Values, Behaviours and Workplace Diversity

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.

## State Service Principles and Code of Conduct

Employment in the State Service 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](#)

## Work Health and Safety

The Department is committed to high standards of performance in respect of work health and safety. All employees are expected to promote and uphold the principles of fair and equitable access to employment/promotion, personal development and training and the elimination of workplace harassment and discrimination.

In accordance with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*, all employees whilst at work are expected to participate in maintaining safe working conditions and practices and take reasonable care for their own health and safety, ensuring their actions do not adversely affect the health and safety of others. All employees are expected to comply with any reasonable instruction given by the Agency to ensure compliance with the Act and collaborate with Agency work health and safety policies, procedures and guidelines.

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

## Information & Records Management and Confidentiality

All employees are responsible and accountable to:

- Create records according to the business needs and business processes of their business unit or school that adequately document the business activities in which they take part.
- Register documents in an approved Business Information Management System.
- Access information for legitimate work purposes only.

All employees must not:

- Destroy delete or alter records without proper authority; or
- Remove information, documents or records from the Department without permission.

## Delegations

This position may exercise delegations in accordance with a range of Acts, Regulations, Awards, administrative authorities and functional arrangements mandated by Statutory office holders including the Secretary. The relevant manager can provide details to the occupant of delegations applicable to this position.

The Department has a zero tolerance in relation to fraud and in exercising any delegations attached to this role the occupant is responsible for the detection and prevention of fraud, misappropriation and other irregularities, and for ensuring that all officers and employees are aware of the Fraud and Corruption Control Policy and reporting procedures.

## Fraud Management

The Department has a zero tolerance to fraud. Officers and employees must be aware of, and comply with, the Agency's Fraud and Corruption Control Policy and Procedure and it is the responsibility of all officers and employees to report any suspected fraudulent activity to their Director or line manager or to the Manager Internal Audit.

We are committed to minimising the occurrence of fraud through the development, implementation and regular review of fraud prevention, detection and response strategies, and are conscious of the need to protect employees who advise management of suspected fraudulent activity from reprisal or harassment, and to comply with its obligations under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2002. Any matter determined to be of a fraudulent nature will be followed up and appropriate action will be taken. This may include having sanctions imposed under the State Service Act 2000.

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**Category/funding/restrictions:** Permanent or Fixed Term. Cost code: Specified for the School/College or Business Unit.

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**HR Office use only:**

**APPROVED BY HRM DELEGATE:** 103974 – Deputy Secretary Corporate Services – February 2008

Request: 091-2001/02, 308-2003/04, 079-2005/06 & 041-2006/07

Date Duties and Selection Criteria Last Reviewed: 02/21 CD/DL

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