

Position Description:

Social Worker Early Childhood Intervention



Role Title: Social worker	Department or Function: Service Delivery
Reports to: Head of Intervention Services	Location: Itinerant

ROLE PURPOSE

To provide family support and information to families attending Lifestart. .
Be familiar with, and supportive of, the policies and philosophies of the Lifestart Co-operative,
Work with families so as to strengthen their ability to make decisions regarding their child.

General Responsibilities

All staff are required to:

- communicate effectively with families in response to their priorities and concerns.
- work holistically so that everyone in the family enjoys their involvement with Lifestart activities.
- work as a member of a transdisciplinary team, participating in the exchange of knowledge and skills among team members.
- document program goals and outcomes that are clear to families and other team members.
- work collaboratively with staff from other agencies in support of family priorities and needs, in ways which promote clear communication and effective partnerships,
- contribute to smooth transitions for families who are accessing new services, including families who are leaving Lifestart.
- develop and extend their professional knowledge.
- work flexibly in response to family needs.
- access interpreters where needed, following consultation with the Area Manager.
- contribute to the training and ongoing support of volunteers.
- prepare and/or present workshops, as required, to families and other professionals, in consultation with the Area Manager,
- participate in all-of-Lifestart staff meetings, plus branch and special purpose meetings as required.
- participate in community and professional networks.

Social Worker will:

- be responsible to the Head of Intervention Services,
- be familiar with the requirements of funding bodies in terms of family support
- contribute to the knowledge and skills of Lifestart staff and families in the areas of
 - case management,
 - cross cultural competence
 - counselling (including making appropriate referrals to other agencies
 - available community resources for families
- in consultation with the Head of Intervention Services, prepare an Annual Operations Plan,
- participate in the process of reviewing policies and procedures for the Lifestart volunteer program,
- coordinate training programs for volunteers and provide ongoing support to volunteers,
- in partnership with Area Managers, plan and run group sessions, including playgroups , taking a leading role if required,
- organise and facilitate parent training sessions, eg. After the Diagnosis.
- as required, give appropriate advice to families making enquiries and/or on the waiting list regarding resources available to them, including other services for which they are eligible.

Essential Competencies:

- Degree in Social Work
- Eligible for Membership of AASW
- Experience working with families of children with disabilities
- Experience in Family Centred Practice
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Basic IT Literacy
- Private Motor Vehicle and current Drivers Licence

Desirable Criteria

- Sound Knowledge and practical experience in the implementation of Positive Behaviour Support principles; such as toilet training and sleep issues for children with a disability
- Experience in group dynamics
- Demonstrated understanding of augmentative communication practices
- Interest and initiative in developing new programs

Approved by: Sue Becker: Chief Executive Officer

Date: December, 2010