

Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care **- Case Manager** **(2 positions)**

The opportunity

Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care is a new program commencing at Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative (BADAC) for Aboriginal children and young people subject to a Child Protection order. Section 18 of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* enables the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to authorise the principal officer of an Aboriginal agency to undertake specified functions and powers in relation to a protection order for an Aboriginal child or young person.

Under the Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care program, authorised ACCOs will have the opportunity to actively work with the child's family, community and other professionals to develop and implement the child's case plan and achieve their permanency objective in a way that is culturally safe and in the best interests of the child. Aboriginal children and young people continue to be over represented in child protection and care systems. Actions to reduce the growth of Aboriginal children in care are required.

It is widely recognised that connection to culture, community and Country is fundamental to supporting the safety and identity of Aboriginal children who are subject to a protection order. Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care aims to:

- improve the support and decision making for Aboriginal children who have been placed on Child Protection orders
- maintain Aboriginal children's cultural identity and promote connection to family, community and culture
- support Aboriginal children to return home to parents or extended families where it is safe to do so, or support the identification of culturally safe alternative care
- Maintain connection to Country for Aboriginal children.

The role

This exciting new position presents the opportunity to contribute to the implementation of the new Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care program commencing at BADAC. We are seeking a suitably qualified and passionate professional who wants to play a role in reducing the over representation of Aboriginal Children in care, strive for better outcomes for children and build capacity in families so that children can be transitioned home. Our ACAC Case Manager will provide high quality, culturally attuned services that focus on the safety and well-being of children and young people, healing and connection to family, community, culture and country.

About BADAC

The Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative (BADAC) was established by members of the Ballarat and district Aboriginal community in 1979. BADAC delivers a comprehensive range of health, social, welfare and community development programs to local Aboriginal people. Since 1979, the organisation has grown considerably to a staff of 100 delivering a wide range of services, underpinned by Social Inclusion principles, which incorporate the following programs:

- Health and Home Care

- Social and Emotional Well-being
- Family Support
- Care Services
- Family Violence and Justice
- Early Years and Youth

BADAC is the Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation (ACCO) for the Ballarat and district area, covering 4 local government areas (LGAs). Our services are open to all members of the public, with priority given to our members. BADAC is focused on prevention and early intervention, always with a client-centred approach, to ensure that our clients are personally engaging in the development and nurturing of their own futures.

Position Title:	Case Manager – Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care
Responsible to:	Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care – Team Leader
Salary:	SCHADS Level 4 - 5 (Depending on skills and experience)
Hours:	37.5 hours per week
Status:	Fixed Term Contract – Ending Jan 2020

1. Key Duties & Responsibilities:

- 1.1. Provide effective case management and risk assessment children and their families engaged in the Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care program.
- 1.2. Together with the Team Leader, Program Manager and BADAC Executive team, implement the ACAC program operating procedures including the service delivery guidelines, practice frameworks, assessment tools and policies and procedures.
- 1.3. Exercise a wide range of legal delegations in accordance with the Children and Young Person's Act 2005 to ensure the safety and well-being of children and young people in BADAC's care.
- 1.4. Work in a culturally respectful way to ensure children, young people and their families are empowered to develop and maintain cultural connections.
- 1.5. Undertake complex casework with families and children who have experienced trauma and may present with challenging behaviors, including using culturally safe therapeutic approaches to heal and build resilience.
- 1.6. Ensure that effective administration is completed including: Case notes, data collection, reporting requirements etc.

- 1.7. Complete assessments, including assessments of risk and safety.
- 1.8. Prepare reports, present information and make recommendations to the Children's Court and other relevant courts and legal processes.
- 1.9. Build strong partnerships between the ACAC program and other BADAC programs and services, the Department of Health and Human Services and the broader community services sector.
- 1.10. Advocate on behalf of Aboriginal children and their families.
- 1.11. Maintain strict standards of confidentiality & act at all times in a professional manner in accordance with the policies & procedures of the Ballarat & District Aboriginal Co-operative. Complete other duties as required and requested.
- 1.12. Other duties as requested.

2. Key Selection Criteria:

- 2.1. Demonstrated ability to work in a way that promotes Aboriginal children's cultural identity and promotes their connection to family, community and culture acknowledging that connection to culture, community and country is fundamental to supporting the safety and identity of Aboriginal children.
- 2.2. Sound knowledge of the legislation, policy and practice requirements relating to Aboriginal children, their families and carers.
- 2.3. Tertiary qualifications in Community Services, Social Work, Welfare or a related field and 3 or more years' experience.
- 2.4. Demonstrated ability to deliver best practice and guide staff in culturally appropriate assessments, case planning and case management, including court work, in accordance with the Program service delivery framework.
- 2.5. Demonstrated ability to manage serious/complex case issues, critical incidents, worker safety issues and quality of care concerns.
- 2.6. Demonstrated ability to develop, implement and review plans for children and young people.
- 2.7. Demonstrated ability to undertake complex casework and utilise culturally safe therapeutic approaches with children and their families who have experienced trauma and may present with challenging behaviours.
- 2.8. Highly developed interpersonal & communication skills including demonstrated ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of people, including families, government & community, health, education & welfare services.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.

3. Other Relevant Information:

- 3.1. It will be a requirement to actively participate in general staff meetings & any other relevant forums, including staff development sessions.
- 3.2. The incumbent will be required to adhere to BADACs credentials policy which includes:
 - National Police Check
 - Working with Children Check
 - Must hold a current Victorian Drivers License.
- 3.3. BADAC is committed to the ongoing Professional Development of all its employees & encourages them to attend educational activities that will enhance the employee's ability to perform their tasks.
- 3.4. The employee will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement at commencement of employment.
- 3.5. BADAC is a Child Safe organisations and all employees are expected to adhere to our Child Safe Guidelines.

I, the undersigned employee, understand & agree to perform the duties & responsibilities set out in this duty statement.

Employee

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Program Manager

Signature _____

Name: _____

Director of Family Support Services

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Chief Executive Officer

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

