

POSITION	Contact Worker – Children’s Contact Service	STATUS	Part time
REPORTS TO	Manager Children’s Contact Service	LOCATION	Narre Warren

BETTER PLACE AUSTRALIA

Better Place Australia has a vision of “An Australia where all people experience positive relationships, truly value each other and live safer, more fulfilling lives”. Our purpose is “To empower people to become more resilient and experience improved wellbeing to better determine their futures”.

Our organisational values are at the forefront of all interactions with our employees, our clients and our stakeholders.

We are:

- Creative
- Caring
- Welcoming
- Responsive; and
- Thriving

As a community focused ‘for-purpose’ organisation with an ever-growing range of psychological and community support services, Better Place Australia is taking a leadership role in the provision of high-quality, effective services for a wide range of community groups across Victoria.

PURPOSE OF ROLE

Better Place Australia, via its Children’s Contact Service (CCS), offers families an independent venue where supervised contact visits for children and young people of separated parents can occur in a safe, supportive and family friendly environment. The Children’s Contact Service is also supported by the provision of a range of related parent/family support and education services.

The primary focus of the CCS is the safety and well-being of children and young people. The program maintains a clear commitment to prioritising the needs and welfare of children and will actively intervene to ensure that the best interests of children are protected and promoted at all times. The CCS provides safe neutral, onsite facilitated changeovers and supervised visits for children and their separated parents with a trauma-informed and child-focused approach. These contacts are often court-mandated due to high conflict familial circumstances and often exist within a broader suite of family law services.

The Services delivered by the CCS occur primarily over the weekend with some service delivery occurring during the week. This position exists to serve as a facilitator and observer of clients during scheduled visitation. As part of this, there will be a requirement to greet clients, support their participation in the service and document observations during the provision of service. The role is casual (on a needs only basis) and will include weekday and Saturday engagements.

WORK PERFORMED

Direct Service

- Delivery of program services in alignment with Better Place Australia's values, objectives, programs and strategic plan; and within the legislative frameworks
- Facilitate the supervised visits and supervised changeovers
- Undertake intake assessments and planning to make decisions around client suitability to access services
- Maintain all case notes and client records with a high standard of accuracy and in accordance with best practice, confidentiality and privacy requirements
- Liaise with parents, family members, legal representatives, court staff and other case workers
- Provide information and support to all the parents who would like to access our services and ensure referrals are provided where required
- Facilitate referrals of clients to appropriate services, programs and organisations as well as to other Better Place services, as required
- Perform administrative tasks for the CCS as required

Other:

- Other duties as assigned, and which are consistent with the scope of the position.

KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

Essential

- Diploma or Bachelor qualified in Social Work, Family Therapy, Psychology or similar Human Services qualifications and are eligible for membership of AASW, AAFT, APS or PACFA member associations.
- Experience working with children and families experiencing separation, family conflict, family violence and/or other complex psychosocial circumstances.
- An understanding of child-focused and trauma informed practice, including child development, trauma and attachment.
- Experience undertaking risk assessments and responding appropriately to safety concerns, particularly in relation to children and family violence.
- Ability to work effectively with children and parents presenting with distress challenging behaviour or complex family dynamics.
- Strong communication and conflict management skills, with the ability to remain neutral, impartial and child focused.
- Strong observation, documentation and report-writing skills, with the ability to accurately and objectively record interactions between children and parents.
- Strong organisational and technology skills, including the ability to manage competing priorities and maintain accurate client records.
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PERSONAL COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS

- Exceptional communication and interpersonal skills
- Excellent written skills
- Ability to work effectively in a team and to apply initiative to solving problems with minimal supervision.

RISK SCREENING

- Current Victorian driver's license and access to own transport
- Current satisfactory National Police check

- Working with Children Check (Victoria)

KEY RELATIONSHIPS / INTERACTIONS

Internal

- Manager Children's Contact Service
- Administration Coordinators
- Operational Staff
- Executive Team

External

- Clients and their family members
- Members of the Community

GENERAL INFORMATION

Better Place Australia is a for purpose organisation, providing services for all members of the community regardless of religion, age, gender, sexuality, lifestyle choice, cultural background or economic circumstances. We offer a workplace culture reflective of a vibrant, learning organisation where our people are highly engaged in their work and committed to making a difference. At BPA, we all have a shared responsibility for supporting a culture of inclusivity and diversity. Our organisation is committed to child safety, and we carry out police record, working with children and reference checks to ensure that we are recruiting the right people.