



Job Description

Youth Worker in Secondary Schools (YWiSS)

School:	Bay of Islands College
Reports to:	Intern Psychologist
Reviewed:	April 2019

Purpose of the position

The youth social worker will provide early and responsive social work interventions with young people in years nine to 15 and their whānau, where concerns have been identified which put their education, safety or wellbeing (including mental health) at risk.

The youth social worker will be school-based and is part of the broader social support/pastoral care team within the school.

Key Responsibilities

Service Delivery

The Youth Social Worker will:

1. Undertake a comprehensive assessment of the needs and strengths of a young person and their family/whānau in the context of concerns identified in referrals received
2. Work in partnership with the school's social support/pastoral care team to ensure a coordinated response to support the referred young person's goals for change
3. Establish clearly defined intervention plans with young people and where possible their whānau, **which are goal focused and educationally relevant**, in order to reduce barriers to increased attendance and achievement at school.

This will include helping the young person to:

- problem solve and successfully meet the everyday demands of the school environment
 - set educational goals (both short and long term)
 - develop skills around pro-social competence and resilience building and supporting whānau to reduce barriers to their young persons' attendance and engagement in school
4. Help young people to identify and develop protective factors which enhance resiliency and help keep them safe
 5. Link young people and their whānau with community or specialist agencies where appropriate
 6. Advocate for young people and their whānau to ensure their needs are understood, including where learning needs have been identified

7. Establish and maintain links between whānau, the school, and other agencies in order to benefit the education and development of young people
8. Facilitate whānau meetings
9. Provide information and advice to young people, whānau and school personnel as needed
10. Undertake a case co-ordination role where appropriate when there are multiple agencies involved in the support of a young person and their whānau.
11. Regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of interventions to ensure goals set for a young person are achieved
12. Co-ordinate group programmes for groups of young people in response to specific areas of need identified in the course of their work

Professional Practice

The Youth Social Worker will:

1. maintain appropriate professional boundaries with young people and adhere to the professional code of ethics as mandated by their profession
2. model positive attitudes and behaviours in all interactions with young people
3. actively participate in supervision and reflective practice

Relationship Management

The Youth Social Worker will:

1. establish, develop and maintain relationships with young people and their whānau
2. model collaborative and problem-solving relationships with young people, families/whānau, teachers and other adults to create supportive social systems for participating young people, including strengthening the family/whānau-school relationship.

Record Keeping and Reporting

The Youth Social Worker will:

1. Ensure the accurate recording and secure storage of all information pertaining to casework including examples of one-off advice given to school staff/young people and families/whānau.
2. Provide comprehensive reports for the Provider Return Quarterly Report (including a Narrative report) and to YWiSS Quarterly Partnering Meetings.
3. Participate in any evaluation of the service

Skill Competencies:

- Strong interpersonal skills
- Highly developed written and oral communication skills
- Proven ability in strengths-based youth social work assessments and in setting SMART goals with young people
- Report writing ability
- Creative thinking and problem-solving ability
- Ability to develop high quality relationships with internal and external stakeholders
- Computer literate and competent on stand Microsoft Office applications
- Initiative and decision-making ability
- Ability to anticipate and plan with attention to detail
- Ability to work without supervision (able to work in sole role while contributing to a wider team)
- Understanding of te reo me ngā tikanga o Ngāpuhi

Personal Related Attributes:

- a passion for working with at-risk youth
- commitment to working as a member of a multi-disciplinary team
- a willingness to participate in team and organisation activities
- maintain a high professional standard at all times.
- an ability to work independently and make good use of supervision

Qualifications and Experience:

- Bachelor's Degree or Diploma in Social Work.
- Social Work Registration and membership of ANZASW or actively working towards this
- good knowledge in working with Pacific, Māori and new immigrant students and families
- proven practice in working effectively with young people to meet their goals for change
- Full and current Driver's Licence.
- Sound developmental knowledge of young people especially in relation to mental health
- A clean NZ Police background check and CYRAS check