

- Position title:** Education Consultant, Life Without Barriers (LWB)
- Classification:** Fixed term, Full-time contract (August 2017 – December 2018)
- Allowances:** Work vehicle provided
- Location:** The position is co-located between LWB **Rockdale** and **Baulkham Hills** Offices and will provide services across these geographical areas
- Reports to:** Director, Edmund Rice Education Australia YouthPlus Institute (and specified LWB staff)
- Direct reports:** Education Consultant Program Consultative Steering Committee
- Primary purpose:** To support children and young people (C&YP) living in out of home care (OoHC) and Residential Care Facilities to achieve educational outcomes equitable with those C&YP living at home, recognising the disrupted attachment and trauma that C&YP in OoHC have experienced as a result of abuse and neglect. The Education Consultant utilises psycho-educational evidence to provide collaborative support and service to schools, care teams and C&YP in the areas of social skill and emotional regulation development, literacy, numeracy and learning support, and mental health and wellbeing enhancement, at both the responsive and preventative levels.

**Background - LWB and Youth+ Institute Partnership:**

Children and young people in out-of-home care face many challenges in relation to their educational outcomes. Such challenges include:

- School instability, with multiple school changes and disruptions
- Problems at school, such as limited social connections
- Limited opportunities for participation because of part time attendance, leaving before school completion, truanting, suspensions and exclusion
- Lower academic aspirations and attainment
- Co-occurring health, education, and learning needs
- Financial barriers and lack of adult support to access further education.

Many of these barriers arise because of a lack of understanding and support for young people who have early trauma and disrupted attachment experiences.

The partnership between EREA Youth+ and Life Without Barriers was established to ensure support is provided to children and young people living in out-of-home care so they can achieve better educational outcomes. Educational support is provided for young people engaged with Life Without Barriers of primary and secondary school age through working with children in out-of-home care, their carers, care teams (including Child Safety), and their schools. This service is currently provided by three Education Consultants based at Beenleigh (SE Queensland), Ipswich (Brisbane and SW Queensland), and Sydney (Rockdale, Baulkham Hills) regions respectively.

The provision of this service through an education setting such as EREA Youth+ enables the service to maximize connection with engagement in education. Youth+ is the national operator of 20 Special Assistance Schools (Flexible Learning Centre's) and a provider of a range of supportive education options for young people at risk of failing to complete secondary education. LWB funds the Education Consultants that are employed by and professionally supported by the Youth + Institute.

### 1. Reporting Structure:

Position title of Direct Manager: Director, EREA Youth+ Institute

Position title of LWB Manager: Manager, Practice and Service Outcomes

### 2. Key Responsibilities:

1. Working collaboratively with Education and LWB colleagues to improve the quality of the learning outcomes of C&YP in OoHC and ensure the implementation of priorities that encourage inclusive practices, relational pedagogy and positive behaviour support
2. Providing leadership, guidance and support to schools and education programs in the implementation of effective educational practices and processes, including planning, evaluating and reporting on the participation, well-being and achievement of C&YP in OoHC
3. Supporting school and LWB staff to improve educational outcomes for C&YP in OoHC, for example by assisting with the analysis, interpretation and use of data on the participation, well-being and achievement levels of C&YP in OoHC
4. Support the development of individualised learning plans, including use of diagnostic testing (Literacy and Numeracy) such as Compass testing for each young person within the network of residential supports
5. Working collaboratively with the Department of Education, Department of Communities, and LWB Managers, Leadership teams and Staff (including, for example, Principals, School leadership teams, SGOs, GOs, School learning support staff, LWB management & staff, and School teaching and learning teams) to improve educational outcomes of C&YP in OoHC
6. Providing expert advice to the LWB National, State & Regional Management on best practice models of curriculum implementation, quality teaching and professional support requirements for C&YP in OoHC
7. Lead and provide training and support in the development and review of education support plans which may include program evaluation and support in relation to education and complex case management
8. Providing leadership and management of educational input into LWB Residential care facilities and projects, including those that provide intensive behaviour support and/or flexible learning opportunities (including online/ community/ work-based learning)
9. Contributing, where relevant, to research publications, and the ongoing development of appropriate ways to capture successes and challenges for the Education Program
10. Participate in ongoing professional development as required by the role-holder's professional registration body, and to maintain and enhance knowledge and skills in educational support and consultancy in a range of areas including but not limited to:

- a. Trauma-informed practices
  - b. Effects of trauma (including complex trauma) on learning and participation in education
  - c. Flexible and inclusive learning and teaching practices
  - d. Evidence-based practices and interventions, informed by neuroscience, that support relationship development and can contribute to the 'readiness to learn' for C&YP in OoHC
11. Providing timely and accurate information to the Education Program Consultative Steering Committee
  12. Performing other related duties as required.

### 3. Selection Criteria

1. Relevant qualifications and experience in Education and/or Special Education with approval to teach in Australia.
2. Experience in developing, providing and accessing education and pre vocational training options for disadvantaged people.
3. Understanding of the learning needs and teaching methods required for young people with broken and incomplete schooling experience.
4. Demonstrated understanding of formal and informal education and training in preparation for independent living and adulthood.
5. Demonstrated ability to work within a team providing services to people with high and complex needs.
6. High level oral and written communication skills that can be used with a wide variety of stakeholders.
7. Demonstrated ability to be flexible and adapt education and training resources to meet the needs of young people.

### 4. Performance Measures

- 4.1 Key Performance Indicators
- 4.2 Compliance with Position Description
- 4.3 Demonstration of the *Life Without Barriers Way*
- 4.4 Compliance with Life Without Barriers policies, procedures and practices
- 4.5 Feedback from relevant stakeholders

### 5. Attachments

- 5.1 *The Life Without Barriers Way*
- 5.2 *YouthPlus Foundation Document*

### 6. Application Process

Applications close **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017**. To apply for this role please provide the following:

- Cover letter
- Brief response to the Selection Criteria (2 pages)
- Curriculum Vitae that includes outline of relevant work history and two referees including contact details.

For further information please contact Daniela Smith on 07 3447 1003.

Please submit applications to [recruitment@youthplus.edu.au](mailto:recruitment@youthplus.edu.au).

Our organisation supports the rights of children and young people and is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment directed at ensuring their safety and wellbeing. All applicants for these positions will be subject to EREA screening procedures. *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People are encouraged to apply.*

