

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

<b>Title:</b>	Youth Worker (AOD and mental health focus)
<b>Reports to:</b>	Manager – Western Region
<b>Classification:</b>	SCHADS Award   Youth Worker   Level 3
<b>Employment Status:</b>	2 roles x 6-month contract (funded by Working For Victoria) 38 hours per week including some shiftwork (penalty rates apply)
<b>Primary Location:</b>	Footscray and Melbourne’s western suburbs Access to pool vehicles for work related travel

### ABOUT THE LES TWENTYMAN FOUNDATION

The Les Twentyman Foundation believes that every child and young person, regardless of economic circumstances, race or gender deserves an equal opportunity in life.

Working across Greater Melbourne, our dedicated team supports hundreds of kids aged between five and 25, who face multiple stresses holding them back from living a life that every child deserves, including poverty, mental health, unemployment, racism, addiction, domestic violence and crime.

Founded by legendary youth worker Les Twentyman OAM, we have a history of more than 30 years supporting at-risk youth. Our work focuses on keeping children and young people engaged with their education, families and connected to the community, building hope and ensuring they do not end up homeless, living in poverty or engaged with the youth justice system.

### POSITION

These two full-time roles will focus on supporting young people who have spiraled during the pandemic with a focus on mental health, and alcohol and other drugs (AOD). The purpose of the roles is to work with clients to provide specialised support, advice and referral, as part of a case plan. These entry -level roles will complement our existing programs including the Youth Support Service and Community Outreach activities.

Clients will include young people whose negative behaviours have escalated during lock-down, experimenting with or addicted to alcohol and drugs, and sometimes leading to criminal activities; young people experiencing mental health problems and families who need mediation and other services to navigate multiple, complex issues. These outreach roles will undertake some out-of-hours work and will have access to pool cars. Importantly these roles will work with youth and the broader family unit with the aim to connect young people with their families, community and education networks, in ways that are developmentally appropriate and responsive to the needs of individual young people.

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## **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

Working as part of the Western Region Team, the Youth Worker will have the following responsibilities:

1. Undertake assertive outreach to initiate and maintain contact with young people at risk of disengagement from services and community
2. Connect with and relate to young people from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, African, Pacifica and other CALD communities
3. Implement a range of strategies including but not limited to: intensive individual case management, group work, family work, collaboration and care planning
4. Support clients with AOD addictions and help them to reduce their dependency through supported referrals to AOD treatment and rehabilitation, along with coping strategies and early intervention
5. Advocate on behalf of young people and build collaborative relationships with other key stakeholders to enhance service co-ordination with a focus on mental health
6. Support the development and maintenance of family relationships through family mediation and referral services
7. Build strong relationships and links to a range of youth services including primary health, housing, legal, justice, employment/educational and recreational activities
8. Collaborate on the planning, development and delivery of the program including continuous improvement and outcomes evaluation
9. Ensure that client files, data and reporting are up to date, accurate and meets both organisational and legislative requirements and timeframes
10. Undertake other reasonable duties as requested by the Manager – Western Region.

## **KEY SELECTION CRITERIA**

- Relevant qualifications in Youth Work, Social Work, Family Therapy, Psychology or other health/welfare
- Specific training or experience working in AOD and mental health will be highly regarded
- Ability to work flexible hours including weekends, nights and public holidays
- Ability to work collaboratively with stakeholders particularly young people, schools, employment, and recreation services
- Ability to high standard of documentation, reporting, compliance and policy management, legislation monitoring and organisational procedures
- Knowledge and understanding of adolescent development and ability to practice a range of interventions including assessment, case work, care planning, group work, advocacy, crisis intervention and collaborative outreach based service delivery
- Highly developed engagement and communication skills with young people from a range of backgrounds and age groups

*Employment will also be subject to: current First Aid certificate, Victorian Driver's License, "National Police Record Check" and "Working with Children" check.*