



## Position Description

### Aboriginal Health Worker

Location: 1a Badger Creek Rd, Healesville

Reports to: Oonah Program Manager

## Oonah Health & Community Services Aboriginal Corporation

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### BACKGROUND

Oonah Health & Community Services Aboriginal Corporation (Oonah), previously known as Healesville Indigenous Community Services Association Inc was established in 2009. Its purpose is to establish and operate a base from which an integrated program of health, wellbeing, education and employment services for the Aboriginal community is delivered within a cultural framework of respect, caring and sharing.

The Healesville region of the Yarra Ranges is a stronghold of Aboriginal history and culture, which pervades its beautiful hills, lush valleys and bushland. However, the recent history of Aboriginal settlement in the area is not so positive. The fate of Coranderrk Reserve, and the history of government treatment of its people, left a legacy that is still felt today.

The Indigenous population of Healesville and the surrounding area is about 2,500 people, many of whom are from distinct Indigenous language and cultural population groups from across Australia. The number is expected to increase to over 5,000 by 2021 (*Profile of Indigenous Representation in Eastern Metro Melbourne, Department of Justice, 2009*). Such a broad representation of different Aboriginal nationalities, aided by the legacy of Coranderrk, has created a great diversity among the local Indigenous population.

Whilst Healesville already has a number of Aboriginal facilities, they serve different purposes and are not integrated. Above all, the local Indigenous community lacks a place that they can call their own.

The expansion of services at the Oonah Belonging Place is the key project of Oonah Health & Community Services Aboriginal Corporation.

Oonah's vision is "A healthy strong and skilled Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander community recognising the diversity in Melbourne's Outer East" based on 4 pillars of cultural strengthening – health, education, community and employment.

### POSITION SUMMARY/OBJECTIVES

The Aboriginal Health Worker (AHW) is part of the Steps Outer East program which will be delivered from three key 'service hubs' in each of the three Outer East Local Government Areas. Oonah covers the Yarra Ranges in partnership with Inspiro, Carrington Health in Knox and AccessHC in Maroondah. The Stepped Care journey emphasises comprehensive clinical staging, regular clinical reviews,

connections to wider services and support for families. The existing Steps Inner East website ([www.stepsmentalhealth.org.au](http://www.stepsmentalhealth.org.au)) will be expanded to include information and referral pathways for the Outer East.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders will be able to access face-to-face intake, triage and care coordination by an Aboriginal Health Worker at Oonah in Healesville. The Oonah worker will also collaborate with their peers at the Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place, Aboriginal Health teams, EACH, and the Boorndawan Willum Aboriginal Healing Centre to ensure consumers there are supported to access Steps.

The AHW is responsible for managing the intake, triage and care coordination for the EMPHN Mental Health Stepped Care Model for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community in the Eastern Metropolitan Region (EMR). The AHW will also be required to build relationships and work in collaboration with a range of internal and external stakeholders to engage and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community in the EMR to manage their health care needs, provide care coordination services and to improve access to health services.

## **POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Key Responsibilities**

- Conduct face-to-face intake and assessment, as well as care coordination for Aboriginal consumers.
- Provide a responsive service to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community in the EMR with a focus on people with complex needs.
- Provide practical assistance to clients and Community in order to improve their access to health, welfare and recreational services.
- Organise and coordinate health education and promotion activities aimed at maximising good health and preventing illness.
- Act as an advocate for individual clients/groups of clients as appropriate, particularly those who have complex health and social wellness needs
- Build relationships and work in collaboration with a range of internal and external stakeholders including peers at the Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place, Aboriginal Health teams, EACH, and the Boorndawan Willum Aboriginal Healing Centre to achieve better health outcomes for clients and the Community.
- Play a key role in facilitating relationships between Community and mainstream health professionals.
- Communicate and facilitate access to, government and non-government organisations and support services in order to provide care that meets the physical, social, emotional and cultural needs of the client and Community.

## **REQUIRED EXPERIENCE, SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES**

- Demonstrated commitment to the care and support of Aboriginal Community
- Minimum of 3 years' experience in the provision of Aboriginal primary health care
- Demonstrated experience with assisting clients with cultural security and safety
- Demonstrated experience with disease prevention and health promotion activities
- Local community knowledge
- An understanding of holistic approach to health care
- Demonstrated experience of working with knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal culture and how to effectively communicate with Aboriginal people is essential
- Demonstrated experience working effectively and sensitively with Aboriginal young people, families, Communities and service providers
- Demonstrated ability to be organised and effectively manage responsibilities and own priorities
- Demonstrated strong interpersonal, communication and presentation skills and ability to liaise with key stakeholders.
- Relationship management skills and the ability to deal with a diverse, and often competing, range of expectations and Community needs.
- Demonstrated sound organisational and administrative skills, including the ability to prepare submissions and reports
- Demonstrated competency in using databases, Microsoft Office programs and communication tools, such as social and other emerging media

### **Must have:**

- A minimum Certificate III Aboriginal and Torres Strait Health Care
- Primary Health Care (including undergoing recognition of prior learning processes against current qualifications)
- Provides flexible, holistic and culturally sensitive health services to Aboriginal clients and the community to achieve better health outcomes and better access to health services for Aboriginal people.
- Current Working with Children's Check or commitment to complete
- Current First Aid Certificate or commitment to complete
- Experience working with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Communities

### **General Conditions**

All Oonah Board members, staff and volunteers are required to:

- Model the Oonah values of Respect, Caring & Sharing
- Act at all times in accordance with the Oonah Code of Conduct
- Comply with the Work Health and Safety management system

- Undertake a police check prior to commencement and every 3 years thereafter
- Support a child safe organisation by undertaking screening for suitability to work with children, youth and people experiencing vulnerability and to comply with relevant state legislative requirements
- Ensure that all program initiatives operate in accordance with the Oonah Protecting Children policy and other core policy and legislative frameworks
- Ensure budgets are met by monitoring program budgets and managing program costs/expenses

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Grade 4 Level 3 Part time 4 days per week  
Salary \$71,136 plus superannuation**

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants are strongly encouraged to apply. Applicants must address the experience skills and competencies detailed in the position description.**

Email to [manager@hicsa.org.au](mailto:manager@hicsa.org.au).