

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION DETAILS:

Position Title:	Child Life Therapist – Hummingbird House
Award/EA:	Health Professionals and Support Services Award 2010
Classification:	Level PO2 / PO3
Reports to:	Family Wellbeing Manager, Hummingbird House

Position Summary:

Responsible for developing and implementing specific play and activity programmes at Hummingbird House, for children and young people with complex health needs, their siblings (including those who are bereaved) and to support the holistic needs of the family. This includes taking the lead in creating an environment which is flexible and responsive to the needs of children and young people (0 – 18 years) as well as undertaking responsibility for the planning and delivery of a range of events/activities e.g. Memory Day, Christmas Party, Sibling events, etc.

The Organisation:

Hummingbird House:

Hummingbird House, Queensland's only children's hospice, operates as a medically supported 'home away from home' for children affected by a life limiting condition, and their families. The stand alone purpose built facility offers 8 guest in care beds, 5 family accommodation suites and a unique 'end of life' suite.

Underpinned by the notion of creating a 'warm embrace' for children and their families, the multidisciplinary team provides 24/7hr scheduled and emergency specialist care short break stays; pain and symptom management; care at the end of life; and psychosocial support programs for the whole family. With strong connections locally, nationally and internationally with specialist pediatric palliative care services, Hummingbird House is an integrated community based service delivering flexible child and family centred care.

Hummingbird House is operated by Wesley Mission Queensland

Wesley Mission Queensland (WMQ) is part of the Uniting Church, one of Queensland's leading not for profit organisations with more than 100 years experience. As a leading not for profit organisation, we touch the lives of more than 100,000 people every year. WMQ has more than 50 locations servicing Queenslanders, from the Fraser Coast in the north to the NSW border in the south. Our core service areas include:

- Wesley Seniors and Aged Care – including 13 residential aged care communities, in-home care services, allied health, respite services and two premiere retirement living villages.
- Wesley Community Services - including emergency relief, supported accommodation, interpreting for the Deaf community, mental health services, youth and family programs, supported employment for people living with a disability
- Wesley Child Care – including centre based care, in-home care and family day care.
- Wesley Employment Services – including wmqMailpaQ printing and packaging service and Career Keys a registered training organisation that provides education and training in South East Queensland.

WMQ is also the operational partner for Queensland's only children's hospice, Hummingbird House; OzHarvest in Queensland and the Youngcare Apartments at Sinnamon Village and Coomera.

In all that we do, we strive to be a welcoming, caring and inclusive community that celebrates diversity and responds compassionately and creatively to the needs of others. We are committed to justice and our desire is to create an inclusive society for all. We welcome, encourage and support employees and volunteers from

many different backgrounds and faiths who are committed to our core Values, and who will work with us in achieving our Mission and Vision. To find out more visit www.wmq.org.au

Role Accountabilities:

1. Align one's workplace behaviour in accordance with the WMQ Charter, Values and Mission of the organisation.
2. Undertake assessment, planning and provide play and activities across a broad range of ages (0-18 years) and abilities, in paediatric palliative care or related setting.
3. Ensure diversity and cultural issues are understood and taken into account in order to ensure play/activity resources and approaches meet differing needs.
4. Communicate, liaise and collaborate within a multidisciplinary team. Attending and contributing to multidisciplinary meetings.
5. Liaise with other professionals involved in the child and young person's life to ensure coordination of activity and communication.
6. Promote play and activities and share expertise with other staff, volunteers and parents.
7. Undertake observation and assessment of child/young person's emotional state and provide therapeutic input either alone or in collaboration with other Wellbeing staff. Escalate needs when outside your ability and knowledge.
8. Facilitate therapy sessions for children and young people, addressing developmental, medical, preparation and/or therapeutic play needs.
9. Promote creativity and innovation within the hospice, keeping up to date with developments in research and implementing activities linked to best practice in the field.
10. Coordinate effective use of volunteers to support the needs of the service and families.
11. Undertake maintenance and safety of resources, equipment and play/activity area. This includes ensuring compliance with Workplace Health & Safety infection control guidelines, and general child safety.
12. Ensure risk assessments are conducted and the appropriate actions taken.
13. Manage the supply and ordering of resources, overseeing resource budget in liaison with Family Well Being Manager.
14. Prepare and contribute to policies, practice guidelines, protocols/audits and quality indicators.
15. Represent HH and your profession by preparing and providing in-services, training and education both within the Paediatric Palliative Care sector and external organisations.

QUALIFICATIONS, KNOWLEDGE AND REQUIREMENTS:

Essential:

1. A relevant Degree, including at least two years proven study in child development and play OR current Certified Child Life Specialist status.
2. Knowledge of and ability to apply current legislation relating to children and young people.
3. Minimum 2 years demonstrable experience of working in a paediatric palliative care, or special needs setting with children and young people who have multiple and complex health needs.
4. Knowledge of the importance of psychosocial care for children and young people and how the role of Child Life is integral to service delivery.
5. Current membership or evidence of eligibility for membership of the Association of Child Life Therapy Australia.
6. Demonstrated knowledge and experience of issues in relation to children's bereavement, grief and loss.
7. Demonstrated competence in facilitating therapeutic sessions for children and young people with complex needs. Including low cognition and complex health needs.
8. Demonstrated high level verbal and written communication, and conflict resolution skills.
9. Demonstrated ability to problem-solve, and set priorities in both self-directed and team environments.
10. Demonstrated commitment to quality improvement, and professional development of self and others.
11. Demonstrated application of working collaboratively with professional and ethical boundaries in complex situations, as part of a multi-disciplinary team.
12. Demonstrated effective PC skills including MS Office and other related applications packages (including reporting).
13. Demonstrate knowledge of software and hardware applicable to children and young people, including those with reduced mobility dexterity and cognition.
14. Flexibility to work to the needs of families and the organisation, with particular reference to end of life work.
15. Regularly engage in own professional development, clinical supervision and self-care activities within a busy, demanding work environment.
16. Maintain accurate and up to date patient records and statistics and interpret and use this information to enhance quality service provision in collaboration with the Family Wellbeing Manager.

17. Current Driver's Licence and willingness to drive in the course of work.
18. Relevant probity checks required by legislation and WMQ policy.

Desirable:

1. A relevant postgraduate qualification such as Health Sciences, Disabilities, Grief and Loss or as determined by the Family Wellbeing Manager.
2. Demonstrable experience of managing/supervising volunteers.

KEY CAPABILITIES

All Wesley Mission Queensland employees are expected to demonstrate an understanding and commitment to organisational Vision, Mission and Values. The incumbent of this position will be expected to:

1. Role model interpersonal, professional and leadership behaviours consistent with the WMQ core values of Integrity, Respect, Empowerment, Hope, Justice, Compassion and Innovation.
 2. Actively participate in WMQ performance development processes to meet organisational requirements and own career aspirations.
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Our Vision

A compassionate, just and inclusive society.

Our Mission

We walk alongside people in need to enhance capacity, choice and independence, to strengthen relationships and build community well-being

Our Values

Integrity
Respect
Empowerment
Hope
Justice
Compassion
Innovation