



Ngroo Education Aboriginal Corporation

Little Possums Program

Are you looking for an opportunity to work for a dedicated not-for-profit Aboriginal Community Controlled Corporation, that is committed to delivering program's that are led by the voices of our Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander community in Western Sydney?

Vacant Position: Play/Expressive Therapist

About Ngroo Education Aboriginal Corporation

Ngroo Education Aboriginal Corporation is a not-for-profit body whose objective is to support our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to grow up, strong, healthy, and feeling connected, with opportunities to achieve positive life outcomes in a society where we are understood, respected, and valued. We understand the importance of our culture being passed from generation to generation as we continue the journey that our ancestors created, and the importance of continually sharing this with non-Indigenous people.

Little Possums Program

Little Possums will provide culturally sensitive support through cultural appropriate referral pathway, care-coordination, advocacy, one on one and/or group play therapy sessions.

We will work to adopt a strengths-based trauma-informed therapeutic framework to empower our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families by providing a child centred expressive therapy for who may have experienced stress and trauma in their lives.

Through the little possum program, we aim to achieve:

- Improved psychological and emotional health.
- Our Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children and their families learn a greater sense of connection to culture, respect for themselves, others, teachers, and their community.
- Improved self-regulation.



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- Improved ability to form meaningful relationships within family, peer groups and community.
- Emotional and behavioural development.
- To build a strong sense of identity, heal issues resulting from trauma, loss and grief and enhance joyful participation in schools, community life and relationships.
- Improvements in school attendance and participation in classroom activities with improved learning outcomes
- Improved parent-child relationships and greater parenting capacity.
- Little Possums also supports the schools and teachers to identify and address the needs of students with experiences of trauma.

Position Description

The position exists to provide child centred expressive therapy to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (and non-Aboriginal children if the referral processes deem it necessary) children 4-12 years of age and their families who may be experiencing external stress and trauma in their lives.

The therapist would need to be able to work closely with the program Team leader to help provide a safe secure and confidential space for children to reveal and heal from any such experiences that have caused them stress and trauma. They would also need to provide parenting support in the form of consultation, advice, education, and referral.

This is a counselling outreach service whose primary activity will be located within two local primary school grounds in Doonside, two days a week – Tuesdays, Wednesday, and Thursday. The therapist would be expected, however, to travel to meet relevant support agencies for participating families as needed.

Duties & Key Responsibilities:

- Provide a culturally sensitive child centred expressive/play or art therapy for children 4 – 12 years of age.
- Assess emotional needs and suitability for expressive/play or art therapy by initial interview with parents/caregivers, and in consultation with relevant professionals.



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- Devise Treatment plans, provide treatment, and ongoing parent/caregiver interviews.
- Liaise with the team leader, relevant professionals and community support agencies including school staff.
- Devise and maintain expressive therapist procedures, consent forms, brochures, and parent information handbook.
- Secure and maintain child records including session summary and file notes, consent records, reports etc.
- Maintain statistics and submit quarterly report summary to the management team.
- Provide consultation and collaboration with Ngroo Education's Management team and Early Childhood staff.
- Adhere to professional ethics and best practice guidelines for counselling and play/expressive/art therapy.
- Maintain expressive therapy rooms, equipment, and resources.
- To evaluate and wherever possible contribute to evidence-based practice and research.
- Further develop the program in collaboration with the team leader, local community elders' and including School Aboriginal Education Officers

Employment Details:

- Part-time position, 24 hours 3 days per week 8:30am-4:30pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
- Ngroo Education Aboriginal Corporation is currently based at Tregear Public School, Wilkes Crescent Tregear NSW 2770. Our little Possums program is our outreach program and is currently based at Doonside Primary School and Crawford Primary School, Doonside NSW 2767.



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Salary

- Health Professional Employee Award.
- As a Not-for-profit Corporation, our employees can take advantage of our salary packaging options.

Essential Criteria

- Demonstrated ability to engage Aboriginal children and families at the point of initial service contact, build relationships of trust and cooperation, and problem solve.
- Tertiary qualification(s) in Expressive/Play/ Art Therapy or related fields.
- Registered as professional member in appropriate professional field – e.g., ANZATA APPTA APTA – Australian Play Therapist Association, PTI (Play Therapy International), ACA.
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience in working with children and families experiencing challenges such as Domestic Violence, Child Protection issues, Parent Drug and Alcohol Misuse, Parenting Skills, child Behaviour Management, Learning Difficulties, Parental Mental Health, and Social Isolation.
- Demonstrated skills, and current knowledge of attachment theory, (developmental) trauma and the effects of adverse childhood experiences.
- High level of verbal communication skills, with experience developing case summaries.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality and willingness to work in a multi-disciplinary team.
- Current NSW driver's licence.
- Current and cleared 'Working with Children Check' and Police clearance.

APPLY NOW

(Closing date: 5:00pm Friday 8th of September 2023)

How to Apply

1. A cover letter with a detailed written response to the essential criteria. (Above)
2. A copy of your current resume.
3. Details of two referees (at least one recent employer in the past 2 years) Please send your application to our Admin@ngrooeducation.org.au inbox. if you would like to know more information, please contact the office on, 02 9628 6301.