



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

*STARTTS is committed to Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and anti-discrimination policies.*

**POSITION NUMBER: 1073-W**

**Date reviewed/created: September 2023**

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**POSITION TITLE: Rural and Regional Youth Worker – Wagga Wagga**

**TEAM:** Rural and Regional Community Development – Community Services

**LOCATION:** Wagga Wagga (Riverina Region)

**AGREEMENT:** “NSW (Non-Declared) Affiliated Health Organisations’ Professional and Associated Staff Agreement”.

**CLASSIFICATION:** Health Education Officer, or other relevant classification based on qualifications, experience and requirements of the role.

A generous salary packaging scheme is also offered.

**VACCINATION REQUIREMENT:** Category A.

**PERIOD OF APPRAISAL:** Performance will be assessed within 3 months of commencement and a 6 month probationary/qualifying period will also apply.

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### **Background to STARTTS**

STARTTS is a state-wide service funded by the NSW Department of Health and Commonwealth Department of Health to provide high quality assessment, treatment and rehabilitation services to people living in NSW who have experienced organised violence or trauma associated with the refugee experience. STARTTS is an Affiliated Health Organisation (AHO), a Non-Government Organisation whose services are deemed to be part of the NSW public health system.

STARTTS’ service provision philosophy is predicated on a bio-psycho-social framework that incorporates a large range of clinical and psycho-social interventions informed by the latest advances in neuroscience and evidence based practice in relevant fields. As such, STARTTS provides a broad range of services including assessment; counselling for all age groups; psychiatric assessment and interventions; family therapy; group interventions; body-focused interventions such as massage, physiotherapy, acupuncture and pain management groups; support groups; programs for children and youth; and various strategies to increase the capacity of support networks and refugee communities to sustain their members.

The focus of the STARTTS’ approach is on building capacity and empowering people and communities to take control over their own lives, using a strengths-based approach and building on individual, family, community and cultural strengths.

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### **Background to the Program Area of the Position**

STARTTS’ Mission is to develop and implement ways to facilitate the healing process of survivors of torture and refugee trauma and to assist and resource young people, and the families, individuals and organisations who work with them to provide appropriate, effective and culturally sensitive services. Additionally, it is important that school students are able to access relevant services from STARTTS irrespective of what school they attend, and, that schools in NSW are able to access support, consultancy and training from STARTTS that can help them provide effective and culturally relevant services to refugee students whose lives have been impacted by refugee trauma.

The Community Services Team covers a wide range of services for refugee individuals, families and communities. The team is managed by the Community Services Coordinator and it consists of seven smaller teams: School Liaison; Youth; Community Development (CD); Rural and Regional CD; My Language Team, Community Living Support Refugee (CLSR) and Families in Cultural Transition (FICT)) as well as the following positions: Witness to War Client Support Workers; Tender, Grants and Fundraising Officers; Communities in Cultural Transition (CiCT) Project Officers; Community Cultural Development

Officer, LGBTIQ+ Project Officers, CD Evaluation Officers and CD Policy Officers. The Community Services Team is integral to the STARTTS systemic approach to recovery of torture and trauma survivors.

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### **ORGANISATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS:**

1. Responsible to: *Rural and Regional Community Development Team Leader.*
2. Responsible for: *Nil.*

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### **SELECTION CRITERIA:**

#### **Essential Criteria:**

1. Tertiary qualifications in a relevant discipline such as youth work, community development, health or the social sciences or significant experience in the area.
2. Demonstrated knowledge and experience in working with children and young people from refugee background and understanding of the effect of Torture and Trauma and its impact on resettlement in Australia.
3. A clear understanding of the issues confronting vulnerable young people from Refugee backgrounds and the impact on families.
4. Knowledge, understanding, and capacity to collaborate with youth and welfare services, networks and resources, and ability to access those relevant to the areas of individuals and family needs.
5. Skills and experience in Group Work.
6. Ability to liaise with the wider school community to participate and support in school programs.
7. Bi-lingual in a community language relevant to newly arrived refugee communities living in Wagga Wagga Riverina region.
8. Ability to work independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team within a multicultural environment and provide consultancy and mentoring to other staff engaged in youth related projects.
9. Well-developed oral, written and interpersonal communication skills, including the ability to communicate effectively and creatively with individuals and families and proficiency in the use of Microsoft Office.
10. Current NSW Driver's Licence.

#### **Desirable Criteria:**

1. Demonstrated experience in the development and delivery of training programs and/or understanding of adult education principles.
2. Light Rigid (LR) Licence or willingness to obtain one.

\*This position is considered child-related employment and will require a Working with Children Check and a National Police Check.

#### **VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS**

\* Category A workers are required to meet and maintain the vaccination criteria (as per the current NSW Health and STARTTS policies) including annual influenza vaccinations. Two doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine will be required to provide a record of your COVID-19 vaccination status. Annual Influenza vaccinations are mandatory. Vaccination and/or assessment for several other transmissible diseases are also required.

Category B workers must have two doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine and must also provide COVID-19 vaccination evidence if successful. (The annual influenza vaccination as well as vaccination for other transmissible diseases are strongly encouraged but not mandatory).

Should you not be able to comply with vaccination requirements before your commencement date, the offer of employment may be withdrawn.

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## **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ROLE**

The position is a combination of direct work and engagement with Young People from Refugee Backgrounds and support for school systems. The position is funded by the NSW Government Regional Youth Hubs program.

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### **PRIMARY OBJECTIVES:**

1. To liaise and consult with young people of refugee background, refugee communities and relevant organisations about the needs of young people, build capacity and identify gaps in services.
  2. To advocate for the development of appropriate services to address Young People's needs.
  3. To participate in the development of STARTTS services and programs to address the specific needs of young people and children of refugee background in conjunction with other relevant STARTTS staff.
  4. To coordinate the delivery of STARTTS' residential youth camps and group workshops/programs for youth.
  5. To network and support organisations working with or likely to come into contact with young people of refugee background and participate in collaborative initiatives.
  6. To provide support for refugee communities wishing to develop their own youth projects.
  7. To implement or support the existing Regional School meetings and provide support to participating schools.
  8. To act as a resource and link to other STARTTS services, and provide support, training and consultancy for teachers, school counsellors, working with refugee children and youth in the allocated region.
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### **PRIMARY DUTIES:**

#### **1. Group Interventions**

- 1.1. Provide group interventions and workshops (art/cultural/sport) for young people and children of Refugee backgrounds
- 1.2. Work with STARTTS and school staff where relevant to deliver group interventions.
- 1.3. Undertake regular case reviews and follow-up of children and youth with relevant staff from STARTTS and schools.

#### **2. Community and Stakeholder Liaison**

- 2.1. Participate in an agency-wide response to community consultations with selected communities in respect of youth and school related issues and actions.
- 2.2. Represent STARTTS at children and young people related interagencies and forums and selected education institutions.

#### **3. Facilitating Programs and Group Work Activities**

- 3.1. Facilitate at least two STARTTS Youth Camps per annum for refugee children and young people in the region.
- 3.2. Facilitate youth groups and workshops for young people in collaboration with schools, youth and other relevant services.

#### **4. Developing STARTTS Services and Programs**

- 4.1. Participate in the development of strategic plans regarding services to young people and children.
- 4.2. Ensure that issues specific to young people are considered during this process.

#### **5. Supporting Refugee Communities**

- 5.1. Develop relationships with relevant refugee communities.
- 5.2. Provide training, advice and guidance with project planning, implementation and evaluation.
- 5.3. Assist with funding submission writing.

- 5.4. Assist with linking refugee community organisations with other relevant stakeholders.
- 5.5. Mentor youth leaders likely to run projects in their own communities.

## **6. Working with School Systems**

- 6.1. Identify and engage with schools and other relevant stakeholders.
- 6.2. Work with the STARTTS team to develop a thorough understanding of the STARTTS past and current engagement with schools.
- 6.3. Act as an interface between schools and STARTTS services.
- 6.4. Deliver training to school staff or arrange other trainers where relevant.
- 6.5. Enhance connections between STARTTS and public and private education sector and act as a resource for teachers and school counsellors working with refugee children and youth.
- 6.6. Ensure relevant public and private education staff are aware of STARTTS services and keep them up to date with new developments at STARTTS.
- 6.7. Attend relevant meetings, interagencies and forums.

## **7. Other Relevant Tasks**

- 7.1. Undertake continuing professional development related to the role including the effects of torture and trauma and the approaches to rehabilitation available at STARTTS.
- 7.2. Maintain confidentiality of STARTTS clients.
- 7.3. Undertake relevant staff development activities particularly community development focused.

## **8. Reporting**

- 8.1. Prepare bimonthly reports to Rural and Regional Community Development Team Leader.
- 8.2. Supply statistical information and maintain accurate client records in CAREHR and requirements relevant to the funding body.

## **9. Personnel**

- 9.1. Contribute to the STARTTS strategic planning process and report on relevant Strategic Plan Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- 9.2. Participate actively in the STARTTS Performance Management program and contribute to the development of an annual work plan that aligns with the organisation's Strategic Plan.
- 9.3. Be an active participant in team meetings to maximise contribution to the work of the team.
- 9.4. Participate in STARTTS staff meetings and other relevant meetings.
- 9.5. Work to ensure professional and co-operative working relationships within own team and with other departments across STARTTS.
- 9.6. Participate in identifying quality improvement initiatives/strategies.
- 9.7. Attend and participate in all training opportunities identified for the role.
- 9.8. Liaise with and seek senior advice as required.

## **10. As a STARTTS employee you are expected to:**

- Have commitment to Human Rights, EEO, WHS and Safe Work Practices.
- Carry out the role and responsibilities in a manner that is consistent with delegations, policies, procedures and operations systems of STARTTS and in line with STARTTS Code of Conduct.
- Maintain confidentiality and exercise discretion in relation to all STARTTS matters.
- Actively seek to improve skills and knowledge that will benefit the organisation.
- Project a professional image at all times and in all situations.
- Undertake any other duties that may be required within the area of work.

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**Equal Employment Opportunity and Staff Relationships:**

- STARTTS is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) employer and encompasses its philosophy and practice.
- STARTTS rejects racism and sexism in all its forms and is committed to the elimination of racial and gender discrimination including direct and indirect racism and sexism, racial vilification, and harassment.

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**STARTTS Workplace Policies**

You must observe and comply with the provisions set out in any and all written policy, practice or procedure of STARTTS. A breach of STARTTS' policies, practices and procedures may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of your employment.

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**Work Health & Safety Responsibilities:**

- Comply with STARTTS WHS policies and procedures.
- Work with due care and consideration to safeguard your own health and safety and the health and safety of others, and to report to your Supervisor any potential hazards, mishaps, incidents or injuries that may occur or become aware of during the course of work.

**Risk Management Responsibilities:** All staff have a responsibility to identify any risks (i.e., the chance of something happening that will have an impact on the objectives of the organisation) in the course of their work and to inform their supervisor, as per the *STARTTS Risk Management Policy and Program*.

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**Smoke-free Workplace**

STARTTS is completely smoke-free. This means that smoking is not allowed in any STARTTS' buildings, vehicles or grounds, there are no designated smoking areas. As an employee you are required to comply with the 'Non-smoking' Policy.

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I have read the **Rural and Regional Youth Worker – Wagga Wagga** Position Description, understand its contents and agree to work in accordance with the requirements of the position. I understand and accept that I must also comply with STARTTS' policies and procedures and can be required to work in any location under the jurisdiction of STARTTS.

I also agree to strictly observe STARTTS' policy on confidentiality of client information or such other sensitive or confidential information that I may come across in the course of my employment.

**Employee Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please print*

**Employee Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Jorge Aroche**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The review for this Position Description is due: September 2025**