



<b>Title</b>	<b>Children’s Counsellor</b>
<b>Classification</b>	Level 4

## PRIMARY PURPOSE OF POSITION

YFS is the Regional Domestic and Family Violence Service in Beaudesert and surrounding areas offering counselling, court support and home safety upgrades for people who are experiencing or have experienced domestic and family violence, and specialised counselling for children impacted by domestic violence.

The Children’s Counsellor will work with children experiencing and/ or witnessing domestic and family violence to develop strategies to improve their safety and minimise the negative impacts of their experiences. This includes crisis response and counselling within a case management framework, and liaising with the Women’s Counsellors to provide initial and on-going assessment of risk and safety.

The Children’s Counsellor will provide parents of children with information, advice and referral to internal and external services. Services will be provided between Logan and Beaudesert (whichever is safest for the child). This position will be based at YFS’ Jimboomba office from January 2018.

## ORGANISATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Refer to *Organisational Description (101179)* on Qudos.

## REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

### Position title of direct Supervisor

- This position reports directly to the line manager.
- Professional supervision will be provided by the YFS Domestic Violence Practice Manager.

### Titles of positions that report to this position

- Nil.

### Significant internal relationships

- DFV staff
- Other YFS staff.

### Significant external relationships

- Beaucare General Manager and staff
- QPS – Beaudesert and Jimboomba Police including QPS DVLO and QPS DV Unit Beenleigh
- Logan High Risk Team.

## EXTENT OF AUTHORITY

This position does not have a responsibility for budgetary or policy decision making. Decisions other than day-to-day operational matters should be made in conjunction with the nominated line manager.

## KEY RESPONSIBILITY AREAS

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

### 1. Service Delivery

- Counselling within a case management framework including developing a support plan
- Liaising with the Women’s Counsellor to complete assessments of lethality and risk including on-going assessments of women’s and children’s safety, safety planning and risk management

- Addressing individual needs including the use of expressive therapies in working with children
- Supporting children's ongoing access to child care, pre-school and schooling
- Strengthening relationships (parental and sibling) and attachment
  - working with mothers on parenting and responding to the needs of their children
  - working with mothers and children on their relationship
  - working with mothers and children on the relationship between children and their fathers
- Assessment of needs, information and referrals for women and children to relevant services in the community to address health, parenting, financial and other counselling needs
- Assistance for women and children to access refuge or other safe accommodation
- Information regarding court processes; explaining conditions of domestic violence orders and any implications
- Demonstrate a broad knowledge and application of the skills required for this position, including an understanding and application of techniques, ethics, practice standards, legislation, policies and procedures, to ensure currency in service delivery.

## **2. Networks and Partnerships**

- Build and strengthen partnerships with other organisations to maintain effective, accountable services for clients.

## **3. Leadership and Organisational Values**

- Apply YFS values, ethics, policies and procedures across all work practices.

## **4. Workplace Health and Safety**

- Exercise due diligence in acquiring and updating knowledge to maintain compliance with all YFS WHS systems, risk management processes and legislation.

## **5. Quality and Planning**

- Contribute to continuous improvement of service delivery, operational guidelines, organisation policies and procedures
- Participate in program service evaluations and organisational reviews.

## **6. Resources**

- Contribute to a cohesive team environment through effective communication and presentation of ideas in team meetings.
- Use of vehicles, mobile phones, computers/laptops, video/camera and program equipment of the organisation with honesty, accountability and transparency.

## **KEY COMPETENCIES**

- Demonstrated experience in counselling and case management with at risk/ vulnerable children
- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the issues affecting women and children who are experiencing or have experienced domestic and family violence
- Working knowledge of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012 and knowledge of court and legislative proceedings as they relate to the Act
- Demonstrated understanding and evidence in practice of the gendered nature of domestic and family violence
- Demonstrated effective interpersonal and communication skills (both verbal and written) with a wide range of stakeholders including service consumers, community organisations, government bodies and the wider community for the benefit of a program area
- Refer to the level 4 competencies in the SCHCADS Award
- Ability to relate to clients and their families from diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds.

## **REQUIREMENTS OF THE POSITION**

### **Qualifications**

- Registration with either PACFA or ACA or equivalent
- Possession of relevant tertiary qualifications (minimum three year bachelor degree)
- Current Queensland C Class driver's license
- Current First Aid Certificate or ability to obtain
- Current Positive Notice Blue Card and Disability Services Positive Notice Card or ability to obtain.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Note: An employee may be directed to carry out such duties as are within the limits of the employee's skill, competence and training. All people employed by YFS are required to observe its policies and procedures.

Employment in the position will be subject to an annual Performance Plan and Review, with initial appointment subject to a probationary period of five months.