

Position Description



Position Title:	Child Life Therapist
Location:	Malvern
Department	Hospice
Reporting To:	Hospice Manager
Main Purpose of Position:	The Child Life Therapist is responsible for developing and implementing developmentally appropriate therapeutic and medical play in the Hospice for children (0-18 years old) with complex health needs, their siblings and to support the holistic needs of the family. The Child Life Therapist will utilise specialist knowledge to reduce stress and anxiety through teaching coping strategies and distraction and to assist with pain management through a variety of age-appropriate play activities and therapeutic diversions.
Number of Direct Reports	0
Decision Making Authority	As per Very Special Kids' Delegation of Authority
Key Relationships	<p>Internal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospice Management Team • Allied Health team members – physiotherapist, art therapist, music therapist • Clinical & Non-Clinical Hospice Team • Family Support Team <p>External:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very Special Kids families • Hospitals and allied health providers • Community agencies

Key Selection Criteria	<p>Qualifications/ Education Training and Work Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified child life therapist or Bachelor of Education/Degree with a minimum of 2 years proven studies in Child Development plus education content • Current membership or evidence of eligibility for membership of the Association of Child Life Therapy Australia • A relevant postgraduate qualification such as health sciences, disability support, grief and loss, child development, play therapy is desirable. • Minimum 3 years demonstrable experience of working in a paediatric palliative care, or special needs setting with children who have complex health needs <p>Knowledge and Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated skills in supporting children to develop coping strategies for adverse events through evidence based play and developmentally appropriate paradigms • Demonstrated knowledge and expertise in supporting children and families during end of life care • Experience with children and families from diverse backgrounds • Demonstrated understanding of child development 0-18 years <p>Personal Attributes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated ability to problem solve and prioritise in a fast paced environment • Demonstrated high level communication and interpersonal skills, with proven success in a multi-disciplinary team • Commitment to child-safe work practices and working in a child-safe environment • Commitment to the provision of family centred care • Commitment to the purpose, values and philosophy of Very Special Kids • Ability to reflect on own work practice, undertake professional development and self-care • Commitment to quality improvement and ongoing evaluation • Commitment to contributing to a harmonious work environment
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Key Areas of Responsibility

Clinical Services

Key Performance Indicators

Provide Child Life Therapy services to children and families staying in the Hospice including therapeutic play interventions and sensory activities.	Enable verbal and non-verbal children to express their emotions in a safe & supported environment. Stress and anxiety associated with being away from a significant attachment figure reduced.
Assist with child's pain management through a variety of age-appropriate play activities and therapeutic diversions.	Proactive pain management provided.
Delivery of end-of-life support for the child.	Minimise any pain and fear experienced during end-of-life.
Prioritise and coordinate service delivery.	Hospice Child Life Therapy service availability maximised.
Provide infant/child/adolescent and family centred care.	

Collaborative Practice**Key Performance Indicators**

Build and maintain effective working relationships and partnerships with others, including children/families and other clinicians and non-clinical staff.	Participation in staff meetings. Feedback from family satisfaction surveys. Feedback from staff.
Work in partnership with the Art Therapist, Music Therapist and Physiotherapist.	Delivery of a comprehensive program of emotional and developmental care and support.
Foster a culture of openness, respect, accountability and professionalism in the workplace.	

Learning and Development**Key Performance Indicators**

Develop a high standard of knowledge in relevant clinical areas through participation in professional development, quality and/or research activities.	Individual development plan completed.
Competencies relevant to the position are completed	Online competencies completed and up to date
Promote understanding of the role of Child Life Therapy and child centred approached	Provision of inservicing and training on an ad hoc basis.
Participation in the performance and development plan and review cycle (PDP)	Participation in the cycle checkpoints both face to face and completion of documented reflection.

Quality, Safety and Improvement**Key Performance Indicators**

<p>VSK Employees are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act in accordance and comply with all relevant Safety and Quality policies and procedures Participate in and contribute to quality improvement programs and commit to VSK Values Comply with the Requirements of the National Safety & Quality Health Service Standards Comply with all relevant clinical and/or competency standards Comply with the principles of Patient and Family Centred Care that relate to this position 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% attendance/completion of mandated training. Participation in patient safety and quality improvement activities. Membership and attendance of relevant committees
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Conditions of Service	
Hours	Part time, 15 – 20 hours per week
Other	n/a
Salary Package	Competitive salary, plus superannuation and salary packaging
Tenure	Fixed term 12 month contract position with a view to permanent
General	Employment with Very Special Kids will be subject to a satisfactory Police Check and a Working with Children Check

Privacy Statement: Personal Information may be collected and stored for the purpose of recruitment and selection. The information will only be used and disclosed for the primary purpose of its collection. Some exceptions exist. These may be obtained from the Privacy Officer.

Approvals	
Created by:	Katrina Hall
Approved by:	Sue Kearney
Date of Last update:	24 October 2018