Primary Objective: The Community and Service Engagement Coordinator will work with other Connected Beginnings staff and representatives from community and government agencies to support the development and delivery an integrated service model in Tennant Creek focusing on the needs of the child and family to support engagement in early childhood programs. The programs will work across agencies to promote optimal child development and family engagement.

Context Statement: Through a partnership with the Australian Government, Early Childhood Education and Care has received funding for three years to implement the Connected Beginnings initiative in a number of schools. This is an Early Childhood school based initiative targeting vulnerable Indigenous children from birth to 5 years to improve their social, emotional and cognitive readiness for school by coordinating service delivery and strengthening family and community engagement for this group. The position will work closely with health and family service agencies in the region to implement the project.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:
1. Promote and connect families and children (birth to 5 years) to a range of local services including health, family support and early childhood educational programs to meet the needs of the individual child and the family.
2. Support the transition of vulnerable children to play group/preschool/school programs.
3. Establish and maintain close working relationships and networks with local service agencies.
4. Assist in the development of effective information sharing mechanisms (with parent consent) between appropriate services for children (birth to 5 years) at risk of developmental vulnerability in line with relevant legislation.
5. Provide knowledge of appropriate Aboriginal child rearing practices to inform the development and delivery of early childhood professional learning and resources.
6. Support the development and delivery of an integrated service model and appropriate early learning and family support resources in consultation with vulnerable families and community agencies which meet the needs of families and enhance early literacy and numeracy and school readiness.

Selection Criteria:
Essential:
1. An ability to communicate effectively and appropriately with vulnerable Aboriginal people from diverse language groups and cultures.
2. Proven ability to network, develop and maintain strong relationships with a wide range of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal stakeholders and key agencies both government and non-government at an influential level.
3. A comprehensive understanding of cultural sensitivities and needs in planning integrated service delivery.
4. A well-developed understanding of client service, including the need for confidentiality with an ability for innovation and creative problem solving.
5. Demonstrated ability to identify emerging challenges, develop solutions, make sound decisions exercise independent judgement and initiate, identify and achieve performance outcomes.

Desirable:
1. Relevant tertiary qualification in family, community service or other relevant field.

Approved: August 2020
Karen Forbes, Principal, Tennant Creek Primary School

www.nt.gov.au