

**Position:** Specialist Family Violence Practitioner

**Employment Type:** Permanent part time, required to work 1-2 evenings per week.

**Location:** Sandringham and Frankston.  
*From time to time the incumbent may be requested to work from, or be based at, other Family Life or TaskForce sites.*

**Reports To:** Team Leader, Family Safety (Family Life) & Clinical Manager (TaskForce)

**Effective Date:** January 2020

### About Us

TaskForce will work in partnership with Family Life to deliver the Court Mandated Counselling Order Programs (CMCOP), providing Men's Behaviour Change Intervention Programs to men who have perpetrated violence.

TaskForce and Family Life aim to foster cross sector collaboration to provide a holistic multidisciplinary approach to client care. Each partner has a long history of providing high-level specialist family and AOD services in the catchment and has extensive experience with the client group, including those with co-occurring mental and physical health issues and complex social and forensic needs.

TaskForce, established in 1973, is a not-for-profit organisation providing community programs and services to those most in need. We focus on social issues of addiction, youth disengagement, unemployment, mental health and high risk taking behaviours.

TaskForce delivers its services and programs through three connected areas of activity:

- Specialist alcohol and drug & mental health services: working with people and their families to get the help they need and rebuild their lives.
- Youth engagement: programs helping at-risk young people stay in school, get training, and find employment.
- Specialist training: Building marginalised community members as well as professionals' skills as a Learn Local and Registered Training Organisation.

Family Life is a leading provider of family services throughout Melbourne. The organisation is renowned for its innovation, impact and whole-of-community approach. With strong local networks, and extensive experience in supporting complex, vulnerable families through

therapeutic practices, Family Life is able to support the rapid and effective implementation of the project. Family Life have run Family Violence services for over 20 years and continue to deliver Men's Behaviour Change (MBC), Women's and Children's Counselling and other therapeutic and case management responses for people impacted upon by Family Violence. Family Life are part of the Bayside Peninsula Support and Safety Hub which reflects reform to Family Violence response and intake services. Family Life was recognised for innovation as one of the top ten Australian not-for-profits (2016).

### About the Program

The Family Safety team is a client-centred, trauma informed service, designed to provide counselling and support to families experiencing relationship difficulties. The team provides specialist family violence services to men, women and children who have, or are currently experiencing family violence. In addition, the team provides accountability and behaviour change services for perpetrators of family violence, through individual interventions and group work.

The CMCOP, a key component of the Specialist Family Violence Practitioner's work, provides Men's Behaviour Change Intervention Programs through 20-week group or individual sessions. The program will work with men who have been directed to attend by the Magistrates Court Victoria. CMCOP will be delivered in a Family Life led partnership with TaskForce and integrated within Family Life & TaskForce broader suite of Family Violence Services.

Men will either directly enter a MBCP rolling group format following an intake at the court or they will undertake pre-group readiness through individual sessions. Men with high complexity may be scheduled for a closed group.

The aim of the program is to help men gain awareness and insight into the impact of their violence and work towards behaviour change. Ultimately working towards keeping women and children safer in our community. A holistic, wraparound service approach will be taken with TaskForce specialisation to enable a primary focus of AOD and dual diagnosis interventions.

### Position Objective

The Specialist Family Violence Practitioner provides intensive, innovative and holistic interventions to men, who have perpetrated or experienced family violence.

### Key Responsibilities

The key responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Conducting professional intake and assessment for men who have perpetrated or experienced family violence.
- Co-facilitating Men's Behaviour Change groups, including after-hours group facilitation.
- Providing individual counselling and case coordination services to men.

- Providing short-term counselling to women and children impacted by family violence.
- Delivering the Dad's in Focus program, using a parenting lens to assist fathers who have used family violence, to gain awareness of the impact their violence has had on their children and working with them to achieve behaviour change.
- Conducting on-going risk assessments and developing safety plans to mitigate risk and ensure safety.
- Providing AOD subject matter expertise to the team of Specialist Family Violence Practitioners.
- Ensuring that the needs and safety of the families take priority at all times.
- Delivering services to quality standards, complying with relevant legislation and contractual requirements.
- Maintaining professional documentation and administrative systems according to program and legislative requirements, including planning and documentation of group and education programs.
- Attending regular reflective practice groups, which explore the role privilege plays with particular reference to sexism across the Family Violence and Family Services sector.

### Key Selection Criteria

1. Bachelor Degree in Social Work, Counselling, Psychology, or a relevant field, and/or with specialisation in Male Family Violence.
2. Working knowledge of the complexities of family violence.
3. Experience co-facilitating Men's Behaviour Change Programs and providing Family Safety Contact Work.
4. Demonstrated experience with separation, Family Law, mental health, sexual abuse, alcohol and other drugs and family violence issues.
5. Demonstrated clinical experience working with multidisciplinary teams to provide a high level of performance and innovation, preferably relating to Family Relationship/Family Support areas.
6. Demonstrated ability undertaking assessments and working effectively with parents, individually and in small groups, who have experienced high levels of conflict.
7. Experience working with and understanding developmental and therapeutic needs of children, who have experienced trauma, abuse and neglect.
8. Ability to respond to challenging behaviours and an understanding of the origins of these behaviours, when working with children including trauma and attachment.
9. Counselling experience, with a particular emphasis on working with men who have used violence and their families.
10. Demonstrated understanding of interventions for reducing alcohol and drug related harm, and the ability to apply a range of therapeutic approaches.
11. Information technology skills, including proficiency in Microsoft Office suite and client management systems.

### Additional Information

- Family Life and TaskForce are youth and child safe organisations that value, respect, and listen to children and young people.

- All offers of employment are subject to a satisfactory Working with Children Check and Police Records Check.
- Family Life and TaskForce operate across multiple sites, therefore it is essential that all employees hold a current Driver's License.
- Family Life and TaskForce offer generous salary packaging benefits.
- All offers of employment are subject to a six-month probationary period.
- Family Life and TaskForce are committed to providing a safe, healthy and friendly working environment.
- Family Life and TaskForce pride itself on being flexible and family-friendly wherever possible for the mutual benefit of employees and the organisation.
- Family Life and TaskForce expect all employees and volunteers to understand and behave in accordance with our principles, purpose, values and code of conduct.