



Position Description

Title:	Public Health Nutritionist
Unit:	Public Health and Research Unit
Reports To:	Manager, Public Health and Research Unit
Time Fraction:	Full time
Employment Status:	12 months fixed term
Location:	17-23 Sackville Street, Collingwood 3066

Organisational Overview

VACCHO is the peak representative for the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people in Victoria and champions community control and health equality for Aboriginal communities. We are a centre of expertise, policy advice, training, innovation and leadership in Aboriginal health and wellbeing. VACCHO advocates for the health equality and optimum health of all Aboriginal people in Victoria.

Unit Overview

Empower Victorian Aboriginal people to redress health inequities through the use of culturally appropriate evidence based public health research and practice

The Nutrition and Physical activity program sits within the PHRU, who work collaboratively together in addressing nutrition and physical activity issues and meeting the needs of Aboriginal Health Services through partnerships, networking, leadership, advocacy, research, evaluation, resource development, training and workforce development.

Role Overview

The purpose of the Public Health Nutritionist position is to build the capacity of VACCHO and VACCHO member organisations regarding nutrition (including oral health) and physical activity approaches to health promotion and primary health care. This capacity building occurs through organisational development, workforce training, strategic partnerships, health information resources and campaigns, and state-wide leadership and advocacy. Evidence-based practice is a key function of the role, both in terms of using and contributing to the evidence base.

Key Responsibilities

- Develop and deliver accredited training programs and professional development and networking opportunities for Aboriginal Health Workers and other staff working in Aboriginal nutrition and physical activity
- Develop culturally appropriate preventative health information and social marketing campaigns for Victorian Aboriginal communities focused on health eating, increasing physical activity and reducing sedentary behaviours | partnership with peak health organisations where appropriate
- Develop partnerships with key stakeholders and support Aboriginal organisations to ensure that Victorian Aboriginal people have access to affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food
- Engage with other non-Aboriginal nutrition and health promotion professionals to develop their knowledge of Aboriginal health issues, communities and community controlled approach through contributing to university health professional education and hosting student placements at VACCHO.
- Establish and maintain relationships with Government representatives, other health organisations and professional associations as needed.
- Provide nutrition and physical activity expertise within VACCHO and to other Aboriginal organisations as needed.
- Work within the Nutrition and Physical Activity team working as an effective team member, providing assistance and support to the PHRU as required to meet Unit objectives.
- Regular attendance and participation at PHRU meetings, program meetings, staff and other meetings.
- Undertake other duties which are appropriate to the level of the position, as directed by the Unit Manager to meet Unit objectives.

Compliance with VACCHO Standards

- VACCHO is an equal opportunity employer and strongly encourages Aboriginal and Torres Strait to apply for all positions advertised (*Equal Opportunity Act 2010*)
- VACCHO requires all employees to comply with all work health and safety rules, regulations and relevant Codes of Practice (*Victorian Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*)
- VACCHO is accredited and requires employees to understand the requirements of quality systems and continuous improvement (*ISO 9001*)
- VACCHO requires employees to adhere to a *Code of Conduct*, including commitment to confidentiality and conflict of interest declarations

Other Employment Related Information

- A National Police Records Check is required as a condition of employment.
- A Victorian Drivers Licence is required. The position will require travel throughout the state of Victoria and occasional interstate travel.

Key Selection Criteria

- Demonstrated understanding and commitment to Victorian Aboriginal health, Aboriginal culture, and the philosophy and practice of Aboriginal Community Control.
- Demonstrated ability to work or learn to work with Aboriginal organisations, communities and individuals in culturally appropriate ways as well as mainstream health organisations.
- A qualification in nutrition and/or dietetics.
- Experience in a health promotion and/or public health role.
- Knowledge and understanding of the issues affecting the health of Aboriginal Australians (particularly in relation to nutrition, oral health and physical activity).
- Experience in the development and provision of health education and/or training programs, specifically for Aboriginal community controlled health organisations.
- Highly developed verbal communication skills including the ability to provide advice and support and present to broad audiences.
- Highly developed written communication skills, with proven ability to prepare a range of documents including reports, quality literature and guidelines and general correspondence.
- Demonstrated proficiency and experience using Microsoft applications (e.g. Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook) combined with a high level of accuracy and attention to detail.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills to liaise effectively with a wide range of people at all levels. An ability to develop and maintain effective working relationships, characterised by co-operation, trust and mutual respect.
- Ability to identify and analyse problems, establish appropriate solutions and recommendations using analytical and conceptual skills.
- Demonstrated capacity to manage sensitive information, maintain confidentiality and remain impartial at all times.
- Self-motivated and demonstrated ability working independently with minimal supervision, and as an effective team member, promoting cooperation and commitment to achieve goals and deliverables.
- A flexible approach, with strong organisational and planning skills, including the ability to effectively manage time and workload, prioritise tasks, and meet changing circumstances, competing demands, interruptions and deadlines.

Desirable

- Identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Qualifications in public health and/or health promotion are also highly desirable.
- Knowledge of and experience in strategies to promote physical activity and active living.