

NSW Department of Community Services

Aboriginal Caseworker

WHAT IS THE JOB?

The job involves working with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children, young people and their families. As a Caseworker you will work as part of a team with other Caseworkers in a Community Services Centre. There are more than 85 Community Services Centres across NSW.

Many of the families we work with are from an Aboriginal background. It is important for us to have more Aboriginal Caseworkers so we can provide culturally appropriate services to Aboriginal people.

WHAT SORT OF WORK WOULD I BE DOING?

As a Caseworker, you will:

- **gather information:** You will obtain and review information and follow up reports made to DoCS Helpline about children and young people at risk of harm.
- **interview people:** You will be talking to children, parents, carers and other people to work out what issues may be going on with the child, young person and their family.
- **do assessments:** You will work with families to assess risk factors and strengths of the child's situation. Assessments are used to work out what further action may be needed.
- **work with families:** You will create a Case Plan that involves actions for positive changes for both the child and their family so that the family remains together or is reunited in the shortest possible time. You will also work out ways for children and young people to keep their cultural identity and family connections.

- **work with the community:** You will be using your strengths as an Aboriginal person to provide better services to Aboriginal children and families. You will help build relationships with agencies who work with DoCS to support and strengthen families and cultural connections.

WHERE WOULD I WORK?

DoCS has Community Services Centres all around NSW, including offices in city and country locations. You will be spending some time in the office, but also time in family homes, and in the community.

WHAT SORT OF EXPERIENCE DO I NEED?

You need to be able to:

- work with and understand the needs of Aboriginal children and their families
- communicate well with people both within and outside of your community.

HOW DO I BECOME AN ABORIGINAL CASEWORKER?

DoCS employs caseworkers throughout the year. Aboriginal Caseworker positions are advertised in the following:

- *Koori Mail*
- *National Indigenous Times*
- employment section of the *Sydney Morning Herald* on Saturdays under Government Notices, "Department of Community Services"
- NSW Government website www.jobs.nsw.gov.au (look under 'C' for Community Services)
- www.seek.com.au

employment conditions

Employment as a Caseworker offers a variety of career prospects, training opportunities and excellent conditions including:

- salary range from *\$51,784 – \$71,546 with salary package up to \$78,951 p.a.
- four weeks annual leave
- fifteen days paid sick leave per year
- flexible working hours – 140 hours per month, which is an average of seven hours per day
- training provided by the Department to support you in your role as Caseworker.

*effective from 1 July 2007

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

For more information about DoCS and job opportunities please visit our website www.community.nsw.gov.au or call DoCS on (02) 9716 2222 and ask for the Aboriginal Services Branch.

