



MESSENGERS

Messengers is a non-clinical social support program for vulnerable young people across the ACT. The program uses a social prescription model and facilitates voluntary non-clinical arts groups for young people aged 10 – 25 years who are disengaging from school and their community and experiencing mental ill-health, social isolation and a range of other issues.

Offering weekly arts-based groups, participants are encouraged to develop new artistic skills and make social connections in a safe and inclusive environment. This arts-based approach that builds resilience, improves mental and social wellbeing and young people's acceptance of their diversity. Participants are encouraged to approach the challenges they face in school, in the community and with their families in creative and positive ways. Messengers programs are specifically designed to improve psychological and social wellbeing via targeted participation in the arts.

Four art-based classes are delivered weekly during school term. Classes are facilitated by professional visual artist who encourages young people to explore identity through a broad suite of arts projects including photography, drawing, textiles and painting.

- *Pop in Pop Art* (age 9 – 13)
- *Art Lab* (age 13-18)
- *Sketchy Southside* (Age 13 – 18)
- *Studio M* (age 18 – 25)

Funded by ACT Government's Community Services Directorate, the Messengers Program is managed by the Tuggeranong Arts Centre with three key staff:

1. The Messengers Manager is responsible for designing, managing and delivering the program. A senior role, it includes establishing and maintaining a professional network, building relationships and networks in education and in youth mental health
2. The Messengers Support Worker supports and delivers group workshops and case work for the four non-clinical arts groups.
3. Messengers Arts Tutor designs and delivers the art component of the group classes – encouraging a broad range of medium and catering to age and skill levels

Position:	MESSENGERS SUPPORT WORKER
Location:	Tuggeranong Arts Centre
Employment Type:	Part-time (one year, renewal dependent on funding)
Classification & Level:	Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010 - Social and Community Services Employee Level 3.3-4 (depending on qualifications and experience)
Hours:	60 hours per fortnight Occasional work required outside of normal working hours and on weekends
Direct Supervisor:	Messengers Program Manager
Attitudes and Values:	Understanding of and commitment to the strategic objectives and values of the program and organisation

ORGANISATION OVERVIEW

The Messengers Program is managed by the Tuggeranong Arts Centre. Its programs centre on building audiences to engage and participate in the arts so that is a place where everyone is welcome. It presents a vibrant program of activities that cover several artforms.

OUR VISION: A vibrant connected and creative Tuggeranong community.

OUR MISSION: To be an inclusive and welcoming organisation which promotes and fosters diverse creative opportunities, connecting and engaging our community and visitors with the arts.

OUR VALUES: • Ethical • Inclusive • Respectful • Collaborative

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Messengers Support Worker is responsible for assisting the Program Manager in delivering Tuggeranong Arts Centre's arts-based early intervention and support program for young. The program uses a social prescription model and facilitates voluntary non-clinical arts groups for young people aged 10 – 25 years who are disengaging from school and their community and experiencing mental ill-health. This role supports and delivers group workshops as well as case work.

DUTIES:

Duties include but are not restricted to the following:

- Under direction of the Messengers Program Manager, deliver arts-based support programs for vulnerable children, adolescents and families working collaboratively with artists and TAC staff.
- Engage with program participants, building professional relationships, and adopt case work and case management strategies including incidental counselling. Mental Health First Aid and Risk Assessment, where necessary in conjunction with the Messengers Program Manager
- Working closely with the Messengers Program Manager, plan and facilitate regular debriefing sessions with other staff involved in delivering Messenger programs
- Conduct necessary program administrative duties and liaise with stakeholders and assist in the coordination of events when required.

- Ensure that the Messengers Program adheres to relevant Tuggeranong Community Arts Association policies and procedures, particularly focusing on Child Safe obligations.
- Assist in the supervision and training of staff to support participants within the program and engage with clinical supervision and group clinical supervision as part of the program.
- Foster and support engagement with schools, community service organisations and mental health providers.
- Foster and support a culture of strong collaboration and sharing across all areas of program delivery including working closely with the Tuggeranong Arts Centre team, liaising with the TAC Communications team to promote and market the Messengers program.
- Administer and score evidence-based psychometric tools to evaluate program outcomes
- Implement best practice risk management and WHS systems across the Messengers program
- Other duties as directed by CEO or Messengers Program Manager.

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES:

The Messengers Support Worker is part of a small creative team who:

- Is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion
- Has experience in collaborative practice and positively engages with artists and our stakeholders
- Works effectively under pressure in a fast paced office, managing competing tasks and meeting deadlines
- Has an ability to act professionally, maintain confidentiality and act with discretion.
- Has an approachable and friendly communication style.

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA:

1. Relevant qualifications and/or demonstrated experience in community sector or youth work.
2. Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to communicate effectively to a wide and diverse range of peoples, internal and external stakeholders, and in particular young people.
3. Demonstrated time management skills with a high attention to detail and the ability to manage competing priorities.
4. Demonstrated ability to manage challenging behaviours or complex needs presentation within a vulnerable cohort.
5. Demonstrated high level computer skills, including familiarity with Microsoft Office.
6. Excellent interpersonal skills; capacity to work independently, but able to interact with staff at all levels, and to work effectively as part of a team.

Desirable

1. Familiarity with the use psychometric tools and data analysis
2. Experience with group work

Other requirements:

1. A current ACT Working with Vulnerable People clearance
2. A current First Aid certificate or be prepared to undertake relevant course