

Child Protection Student Placement program

Looking for a challenging, dynamic, meaningful student placement experience?

The Department of Human Services Child Protection Student Placement program gives you the opportunity to put your theory into practice and do meaningful work with children and families.

You will have an enriching experience and gain knowledge of child protection and the broader child and family services sector. You will be surrounded by a talented and encouraging team and get professional supervision. You will participate in the investigation and assessment of children at risk of harm and work with other government programs and community services professionals.

Completing a child protection student placement with the Department of Human Services will open up a world of learning and development. You will be personally and professionally challenged. The experience will serve you well should you enter the child protection or related workforce.

'You can make small wins, and it all adds up.'

more choice professional development
great prospects secure employment
work with great people responsibility
socially responsible jobs appreciation
team work job variety
jobs to suit my lifestyle



What are we looking for?

Personal attributes

We want students who enjoy a vigorous and dynamic work environment. We are looking for confident and resilient people open to constructive and supportive feedback, and people who will reflect on what they are seeing and learning.

'The Child Protection Student Placement program was a productive learning experience that complimented my studies very well. My supervisor supported my progress through the placement program every step of the way. I appreciated the opportunities given to me to further my experience such as: going to court, meetings, visiting with young people and their families, and case noting on the CRIS computer system. My student placement in child protection was rewarding and beneficial for my development as a student and future worker in the sector.'

Rewrite tomorrow, one child at a time

Choose a career with the Department of Human Services

The right qualifications

To be eligible for the Child Protection Student Placement program you need a current and valid driver's licence and be completing your:

- Penultimate or final year of a recognised Social Work degree (or a similar welfare or behavioural related degree) which includes:
 - a. a primary focus on child development, human behaviour, family dynamics and/or impacts of trauma
 - b. and preferably a practical component such as counselling or case work practice

OR

- Final year of a recognised Diploma of Community Services Work course or similar qualifications, which is at minimum, a two year full-time course (or part-time equivalent) and includes:
 - a. a primary focus on child development, human behaviour, family dynamics and/or impacts of trauma
 - b. 400 hours of supervised fieldwork placements
 - c. at least one unit of study in case management, case work practice or counselling

What do we offer?

Meaningful work

You will become a part of an organisation involved in improving the lives of hundreds of vulnerable children and their families. Students on placement, work with people who share a common goal and who together, achieve positive results through all aspects of their work, every single day.

A supportive team environment and supervision

You will be welcomed into the workplace by a supportive team achieving extraordinary outcomes. Your supervisor will orientate you to the workplace providing you with support and encouragement to learn and develop. You will have a chance to see Victoria's largest government department from the inside, seeing the relationships between child protection, disability, housing and family services.

Professional development

You will develop practical skills to reflect upon in your future studies and enhance your employment prospects.

Your supervisor will work with you to

- identify your goals and learning needs, and put a plan into place to address these
- provide constructive and supportive feedback on your performance
- create a safe space for you to explore your experiences
- share information about new research and initiatives
- provide regular, formal supervision.

Your choice of Area

The Department of Human Services has offices all over the state, giving you a wide choice of placement options. Even if you study in Melbourne, we encourage students to consider the benefits of a metropolitan or rural placement.

How to apply

Student placement requests are arranged between the student placement coordinator at your Uni or TAFE and the Area Child Protection Student Placement Coordinator.

Want to know more?

For more information about the Child Protection Student Placement program, visit:

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/childprotectionjobs

Further information

If you have any queries or would like more information please email:

childprotectionplacements@dhs.vic.gov.au

If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format, please phone (03) 9096 7614 using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required.