



# **Position Description**

## **Family Support Worker**

### **Reports to:**

- Community Services Lead

### **Direct reports:**

- None

### **Award:**

- SCHADS award level 2, depending on background and experience

### **Special Provisions:**

- Willingness to travel to remote communities (by light aircraft or 4WD).
- Ability to obtain and maintain NDIS Worker Screening clearance.
- Willingness to adhere to MJDF's and/or Government mandated vaccination policies and provide proof of compliance.
- Ability to obtain and maintain an NT class C manual drivers' license.

### **Summary of the position:**

The Family Support Worker (FSW) will work as part of our Community Services Team that supports individuals and their families living with MJD by providing holistic person-centered practice, and working in partnership with families living with MJD, by valuing and respecting MJDF's 'Our-way' approach. By providing flexible and culturally responsive care based on a strong foundation of enduring relationships, we aim to provide families living with MJD specialist care and support, working together to stay stronger for longer.

A central part of Our Way is to work in partnership with MJDF clients and Aboriginal Community Worker staff to explore opportunities to learn from each other, integrating knowledge and values to work towards clients' goals.

The Family Support Worker provides high quality, responsive and culturally appropriate support to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander families. The FSW assists the Community Services Specialist by providing services and support to families, such as assessing client/family needs; planning; information and referral; group work; liaising with and providing access and participation to community groups, welfare agencies, and government bodies.

The role is greatly varied in its day-to-day tasks.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

- Provide transport and support to clients:
  - to undertake everyday activities, such as shopping, banking, visiting and spending time with family, attending to household tasks, and exercising in the office.

- to attend appointments, e.g. Centrelink, Housing, Schools, Health Clinic, and record and report notes when necessary.
  - to attend and participate in social and community activities.
- Provide support to Community Services Specialist for On Country days, therapy sessions and other group events.
- Support with therapy (under supervision of an Allied Health professional).
- The Family Support Worker may be required to support clients on respite or travel locally or interstate.

#### MANAGEMENT/ADMIN

- Provide written case notes, updating client files and other general administrative responsibilities.
- Attend team meetings to determine priorities/responsibilities.

#### ADVOCACY

- Raise community awareness of MJD.
- Advocate on behalf of affected individuals and families.

#### WORK WITH

The Family Support Worker works under (broad) direction of the Community Services Specialist and in partnership with our Aboriginal Community Workers. The Community Services Specialist is the primary contact for the client liaising with external providers and organisations.

#### **Selection Criteria:**

- Relevant qualifications in health and/or community work and/or disability/aged care or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or training.
- Experience working with people living with a disability or caring for the elderly;
- The ability to communicate effectively, sensitively and respectfully with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Ability to demonstrate a mature and person-centred approach (by providing examples and via references).
- Good computer skills;
- Excellent ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.
- Ability to work both independently under broad direction and as part of a (cross cultural) team.
- A commitment to person and family centred practice and working within the MJD Foundation 'Our Way' approach.

#### **Desirable criteria**

- Knowledge of, and proven experience working in Indigenous communities and alongside Aboriginal community workers.
- Understanding of the mechanisms and processes of Machado Joseph Disease.