

Participation and CoDesign Lead – Child and Youth Network

Position Description

Reporting to:	Head – Australian Centre for Child Rights (provisional)	Work location:	Flexible – any Australian capital city
Department:	54 reasons	Budget holder:	Yes
Team:	Australian Centre for Child Rights	Direct reports:	Nil

About 54 reasons

54 reasons is Australia's leading child rights organisation, part of the Save the Children Australia, and the global Save the Children movement. We work so that children and young people, in all their diversity, understand their rights, have them met, and thrive.

Our people are as diverse as the communities we serve. Our services span the early years and school engagement, youth justice, domestic and family violence and family support, grounded in child rights and participation.

Creating systems change is core to our mission. We advocate for policy and institutional reform in collaboration with other child rights organisations and with children and young people's meaningful participation.

Here you'll make a difference

At Save the Children Australia, we attract bright and big-hearted people who are inspired to make a difference. Together, we are fearless in our pursuit of making lasting change for the children and communities who need it most.

Role Purpose

This role leads the design of the National Child and Youth Network (working title!) – a nationwide platform for children and young people aged 10-17 to learn about their rights, collaborate with peers, influence system-level decisions and shape the Network itself.

The long-term vision is a nationwide, child and youth-led collective that influences the child rights issues children and young people prioritise and operates in ways they decide.

The role co-designs the Network with children and young people, internal partners (e.g. digital, technology, practice, safeguarding) and external advisors, holds the primary relationship with children and young people in the Network, drives the foundational design and delivery plan, and establishes the systems and practices that enable safe, meaningful participation and growing youth leadership over time.

The Network is a flagship initiative of the [Australian Centre for Child Rights](#) – a collaborative centre initiated by 54 reasons and SCA with other leading child rights organisations.

The role works cross-functionally with specialist teams across 54 reasons and Save Australia, and draws on our existing child rights, participation, safeguarding and engagement frameworks and tools.

Here your skills will be valued

Role Requirements:

Child Participation and Youth Engagement

- Lead co-design of meaningful, ethical and developmentally appropriate participation mechanisms for children and young people aged 10-17 via the Network
- Research, and co-design digitally-enabled participation and engagement models

- Ensure participation is genuine and accountable, with clear feedback loops and transparency about influence
- Support children and young people to understand and advance their rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Support children and young people to engage with decision-makers, including public advocacy where appropriate
- Support diverse representation across age, culture, disability, lived experience, geography and identity

Co-Design

- Using human-centred design practices, co-design the foundational Network model processes with children and young people and key advisory teams
- Maintain ongoing engagement with children and young people to shape Network priorities, activities and ways of working
- Coordinate cross-functional input from across 54 reasons and the Save the Children Australia Group to inform co-design
- Develop implementable options for the foundational and future Network models, including operational and resourcing requirements

Systems, Tools and Operational Delivery

- Implement digitally-enabled systems for communication, engagement, data collection and member management, as determined through co-design
- Maintain accurate records of member participation, consent and engagement history
- Coordinate honorarium payments to children and young people for participation

Leadership

- Role model and embed our organisational values of Accountability, Ambition, Collaboration, Creativity and Integrity
- Provide regular updates and reports on progress against key deliverables
- Share insights from co-design and Network operations to inform other child and youth engagement initiatives
- Foster collaborative relationships across teams to build alignment and shared ownership of child participation and co-design
- Stay abreast of contemporary thinking in child rights, participation and co-design, developing your own skills and those of others

Health, safety, security and risk management

- Comply with all workplace safety policy, procedure and training, and role model safe behaviour
- Report all incidents, injuries and potential hazards in a timely manner
- Contribute to health and safety awareness and improvements
- Identify, document and manage risks in your programs and workplaces, applying appropriate mitigation measures
- Promote a culture of strong governance in health, safety, security and operational risk management

Child protection and safeguarding requirements

- Maintain a child safe workplace and act in the best interests of children at all times
- Demonstrate the highest standards of behaviour towards children in both your private and professional life
- Never abuse the position of trust that comes with this role
- Report any concerns for a child's safety or wellbeing in line with internal reporting processes

Here you'll belong

The following skills and experiences will set you up for success in this role.

Essential Knowledge and Experience

- Deep expertise in human-centred design practices, ideally those involving co-design with children and young people

- Demonstrated experience designing and facilitating child and youth participation, including with diverse and underrepresented groups
- Exceptional cross-functional partnership skills, particularly with digital and technology teams
- Experience engaging children and young people through digital platforms and tools
- Ability to design and deliver engaging, developmentally appropriate content and workshops
- Strong understanding of child rights, child participation frameworks and trauma-informed practice
- Ability to translate complex concepts into child-friendly and accessible language
- Ability to manage risk, safeguarding and wellbeing in child participation settings
- Experience building collaborative relationships with caregivers, external partners and internal teams
- Project management skills, including agile principles

Desired qualifications

- Relevant tertiary qualifications and/or equivalent experience in child rights, child participation, youth work, social work, community engagement, co-design or a related field

Additional Information

- Any offer of employment at Save the Children Australia will be subject to a satisfactory National Police Record Check and, where required, a Working with Children Check
- Employees must comply with the [Child Safeguarding Policy](#) & [Code of Conduct](#)
- Child Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct
- Ongoing performance and employment will be measured against KPIs, values and demonstrated behaviours outlined above
- Save the Children is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Driver's Licence:
Working with Children
Check:

Not required
Required

Travel:
Assets:

Some required
Laptop