

Position description

Position title	: Director, Early Childhood
Reports to	: Chief Strategy Officer
Employment type	: Maximum term contract (full or part time min 0.6 FTE)
Location	: Sydney or Melbourne
No. of direct reports	: None
Date	: September 2019
Approved by	: Chief Executive Officer

The operating environment

SVA overview

Social Ventures Australia (SVA) is a not-for-profit organisation that works with partners to alleviate disadvantage – towards an Australia where all people and communities thrive.

We influence systems to deliver better social outcomes for people by learning about what works in communities, helping organisations be more effective, sharing our perspectives and advocating for change.

As a values-driven organisation, accountability, integrity, respect and humility underpin our work.

Team overview

The Strategy and Advocacy (S&A) team leads SVA's strategic policy and advocacy agenda, select systems change programs of work, and strategy and business planning for the organisation. The team in FY20 includes the Policy and Advocacy team, the two teams leading the Older Women at Risk of Homelessness and the Young Children Experiencing Vulnerability Programs of Work, and the strategy and business planning team.

The Strategy and Advocacy team reports into the Chief Strategy Officer.

Position purpose and responsibilities

Context

Over the last 12 months, the SVA team has led research and development work to scope the opportunity for SVA to build a new program of work focused on improving outcomes for young children experiencing vulnerability.

Purpose and responsibilities

The Director, Early Childhood is a new position at SVA. The Director will lead SVA's system change initiatives on Young Children Experiencing Vulnerability and is a highly entrepreneurial role for an experienced leader, with deep knowledge of and passion for early childhood development.

The Director will build and execute SVA's response to the challenges faced by young children experiencing vulnerability and the gaps across the multiple services systems that support young children and their carers, with responsibility for shaping and executing the program, with the goal of contributing to effective system change. The Director will build on existing work done to understand the drivers of better outcomes and ecosystem mapping, with identification of key gaps across the early years services system.

The Director will be responsible for identifying, forming and managing key partnerships across the not-for-profit, government and business sectors.

The Director will work jointly with SVA's Partnerships team to identify and secure funding for the program of work.

The Director will be responsible for building, structuring, and managing a team to drive a complex, new program of work, in collaboration with partners in the ecosystem. Building a team will be contingent upon sourcing funding.

Person requirements

To effectively perform this position, the person will require the following:

- Entrepreneurial skill and experience – either experience in starting his/her own organisation, or track record of large-scale innovation and building new things (E.g. setting up a new function with new teams in an organisation, creating a significant innovation in the sector)
- Experience in social sector, with established reputation, knowledge and networks in early years
- Depth of knowledge on early childhood vulnerabilities, and experience with one or more of the key domain areas (e.g. health, education, child protection)
- Strong existing relationships with key players, particularly influential decision makers and key actors
- Experience operating in diverse cultural settings, including experience in partnering with communities with a high proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and community stakeholders
- Experience in shaping and successfully running complex programs of work, with ability to scale up and down; high levels of comfort when responding to rapidly changing environments with agility; and experience managing P&L, teams, and complex stakeholder environments
- Powerful influencing skills and experience with both formal and informal influence, and strong personal brand
- Experience with and successful track record of pitching to funders

Additional preferred skills include:

- Experience as a 'front person', with ability to represent SVA publicly with a variety of audiences from multiple sectors, preferably with media experience, but at minimum deep experience in presenting and pitching in different contexts to different audiences



- Understanding of and experience with policy context, and able to operate with a system-wide picture in mind
- Some understanding of advocacy strategy