



## **Protection Rapid Responses Register POSITION DESCRIPTION**

### **POSITION DETAILS**

Position Title:	<b>Child Protection Officer</b>
Location/s:	Worldwide
Commencement Date:	Immediate deployment
Duration:	6 months
Position Type:	Full Time
Application Closing Date:	Ongoing recruitment

***Short listed applicants will need to provide evidence of Permanent Residency or Citizenship in Australia or New Zealand.***

### **RAPID RESPONSE REGISTER**

Austcare's Rapid Response Register (RRR) is a roster of professional protection practitioners available for deployment to United Nations agencies for periods of 3-12 months. The RRR aims to enhance the capacity of the UN and humanitarian agencies in times of sudden or chronic emergencies. This register is the only mechanism in Australia focused solely on protection deployments. The register:

- *enhances the protection capacity of UN agencies* in emergencies and ongoing humanitarian crises through the quick deployment of professional protection practitioners; and
- *increases Australian expertise on protection issues* by developing a pool of specialists who can be called upon to assist in emerging and ongoing crises.

Deployment of experts through the RRR is part of the Austcare *Protect Now* Program that also includes research, looks at integrating a protection approach to Austcare's humanitarian and development programs, policy, advocacy and engages the Australian legal community through the Australian Protection Chapter.

Successful applicants will be included on the RRR for overseas deployment. Members of the Register also have the opportunity to work with Austcare in our country programs in protection positions.

### **MAIN PURPOSE OF POSITION**

Seconded to humanitarian agencies in field locations abroad, the Child Protection Officer will work with the UN agency on programs that focus on children who are internally displaced (IDPs), returnees, refugees and minorities. Key aspects of the position include monitoring and reporting, program support, advocacy and liaison, capacity building, and assisting aid delivery.

## **KEY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The duties of the incumbent may include:

1. Review, assess and inform the child protection situation in areas affected by emergency (including, but not limited to - - depending on the context - - the forms of violence, exploitation and abuse relating to sexual violence, HIV/AIDS, children associated with fighting forces, separated children, child trafficking and other relevant circumstances affecting child vulnerability to violence, exploitation and abuse). Focus on girls and women.
2. Highlight child protection issues requiring a response – both immediate and medium term and make recommendations on specific actions required. Ensure core commitments to children are taken into consideration, within the particular cultural context and ensure solutions are child focused.
3. Identify potential partnerships to implement recommendations, assess potential partners where available or make recommendations on how to fill gaps.
4. Provide technical guidance and direction for effective planning, implementation and monitoring of child protection interventions including the psychosocial recovery (care) and protective mechanisms (legal and social) for vulnerable children and their families.
5. Prepare documentation to feed into project proposals and reporting including updates of the overall situation of child protection, specific programmatic contributions and progress towards fundraising appeal plans.
6. Make frequent field visits to affected areas to monitor implementation of activities, identify opportunities and constraints and any adjustments needed including additional staffing or staff training or other. Hold planning and progress review meetings with government counterparts, local staff, affected communicators, and other relevant partners
7. Represent the agency in meetings with government officials as well as multi-lateral and bi-lateral agencies, to advocate and promote programme goals and objectives, and communicate with major partners on organizational policies.
8. Ensure the agency provides leading technical and facilitation in areas of core commitments to children. Organise/facilitate child protection coordination meetings involving government counterparts and other key partners.
9. Coordinate with the Operations/Supply staff on supply and non-supply assistance activities ensuring proper and timely agency and government accountability.
10. Certify disbursements of funds, monitor and submit financial status reports.

## **KEY INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS**

- Members of displaced people and host communities
- Staff at all levels within the agency and representatives of AUSTCARE, UN agencies, international and local NGOs.
- Representatives of the government, local services such as police, administrative departments and health officials, and (depending on the context) armed elements.
- Delegations, donors, government officials and partners in universities and research institutes.

## **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**

### **Essential Criteria & Competencies**

1. At least **two years hands-on experience (preferably with an aid agency overseas)** working with refugee, displaced or vulnerable communities in the areas of legal protection, emergency relief, humanitarian aid, child protection, youth affairs, community services, international or community development, human rights or related areas.
2. **Advanced university degree** in social work, community welfare, child and youth development law, political science, international relations, development, social sciences or a related field;

3. **Excellent knowledge** of issues relating to refugee and displaced people, the United Nations system, and humanitarian law, post-conflict reconstruction and international development.
4. **Understanding of Child Protection**– knowledge of the UN convention on the rights of the child and its practical application, experience working with 'youth at risk', developing culturally sensitive, family focused and child centre policy, and evidence based child protection interventions. Knowledge of protection broadly is also required.
5. **Excellent communication (spoken and written) skills** – particularly the ability to effectively and sensitively communicate with people from diverse cultural backgrounds and to a variety of stakeholders;
6. **Planning and organisational skills** – Ability to coordinate the work of others, work to tight deadlines under pressure and handle multiple concurrent projects/activities and take initiative;
7. **Ability to work in a team** – Excellent interpersonal and leadership skills; ability to establish and maintain effective partnerships and working relations in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity;
8. **Fully proficient computer skills** – Strong competency in the use of relevant software and other applications, such as word processing, spreadsheets, internal databases, Internet, etc;

**Desirable Criteria**

9. **Proficiency in two or more languages** including English (*French and Arabic are particularly desirable*);
10. **Extensive experience working with international aid agencies** overseas.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

The key components of the recruitment process for being accepted onto our register are outlined below. Suitably qualified applicants are encouraged to submit an application.

- A. You must be an **Australian or New Zealander** citizen or permanent resident to be considered.
- B. You must submit (preferably by email) an RRR application that contains both:
  1. **Statement** (no more than 3 pages) addressing the essential and desirable **selection criteria** as outlined above.
  2. Brief **Curriculum Vitae** (please submit a regular CV rather than a UN P11 form).  
Applications that do not contain both these components may not be considered.
- C. Series of interviews/ discussions.
- D. Humanitarian Security Training and Police Check.

**Applications to be submitted to Austcare Rapid Response Register addressed to:**

Austcare RRR Applications  
 C/ Mary Fogarty  
 Locked Bag 5515  
 Camperdown NSW 1450  
 Australia  
 FAX: +61 2 9550 4509  
 EMAIL: [register@ austcare.org.au](mailto:register@ austcare.org.au)

When submitting your application by email (and this is preferred) please complete the email subject line with: **RRR App. [your name]**. If you are applying specifically with Child Protection skills please also include **CP** at the beginning of the subject line.

For enquires please consult our website [www.austcare.org.au](http://www.austcare.org.au) (the FAQ's about the RRR should be helpful) and/ or contact Mary Fogarty, Protection Register on +61 (0) 2 9565 9137.

We look forward to receiving your application and thank you in advance for your time in applying.