

Antiochian
Orthodox
Church

Armenian
Apostolic
Church

Assyrian
Church
of the East

Bruderhof
Australia

Congregation
al Federation
of NSW

Coptic
Orthodox
Church

Ethiopian
Orthodox
Tewahdo
Church

Greek
Orthodox
Church

Indian
Orthodox
Church

Lutheran
Church of
Australia/
NSW District

Mar Thoma
Church

Religious
Society of
Friends

Syrian
Orthodox
Church

The Salvation
Army

Uniting
Church
Synod of
NSW & ACT

Observer:
Roman
Catholic
Church-
NSW
Province

Associated
with the
National
Council of
Churches in
Australia
(NCCA)

Family and Domestic Violence project

Position description project worker

Project description:

This project is a time-limited project by the NSW Ecumenical Council. Its aim is “to recognise and increase awareness of family and domestic violence in church parishes and to develop skills for clergy and lay leaders to respond when instances of family and domestic violence become known.” The project is to be completed in a 10 to 12 months period.

The NSW Ecumenical Council is a small non-government organisation with a membership of 16 Christian churches in NSW ACT. The general secretary is its one paid staff member. The Council has a Board and six commissions that are organised by members of the membership of the Council. The office is co-located in the Sydney CBD with the National Council of Churches and Act for Peace. The Council has a Zoom license and some or most of the project work will be done online, depending on Covid19 restrictions and the geographical location of participating parishes or small groups of churches. The project worker will be working from home and at times from the office, depending on Covid19 restrictions and the location of the project worker.

The project worker will need to be an independent worker who works and communicates regularly with and is accountable to the small project support group of clergy and non-clergy.

Project outcomes:

Clergy and lay leaders:

- Are more informed about the likelihood that family and domestic violence, in different ways can occur in families in their parish
- Are better informed how Christian teaching can unwittingly contribute to parishioners' continued exposure to family and domestic violence
- Are better informed about the long lasting impacts of family and domestic violence on its victims, adults as well as children and that at times, deaths occur
- Feel more resourced to support victims and perpetrators of family and domestic violence as pastoral carers as well as referring to specialised service providers
- Are feeling more resourced to promote their parish as a “violence free” parish

Skills and knowledge required for the position:

- Active membership in a Christian Church community
- Congruence with the aims and objectives of the NSW Ecumenical Council
- Good understanding of the indicators and dynamics of family and domestic violence
- Good understanding of Christian parishes and their cultural diversity
- Good and sensitive verbal and written communication skills

- Familiarity or willingness to learn more about bible passages and church traditions that unwittingly can promote or maintain family and domestic violence
- Sensitivity to hesitations that clergy and lay leaders may have in talking about family and domestic violence in their parishes
- Ability to utilise existing resources from Christian organisations as well as secular resources as a base for communications and workshops in parishes or in ecumenical settings
- Openness to ecumenism and a non-judgemental approach to different understandings of Christianity, historical and cultural differences between church traditions and expressions of faith
- Good self-organisational skills such as ongoing documentation of the project, documenting communication and workshop formats, evaluation parameters, meeting the timeline of the project, working with and providing accountability to the support group. Use of own laptop.

Remuneration structure:

The project worker will be self-employed and invoice the Council on a monthly basis for hours worked. The hourly rate is \$50.00 per hour and does not include superannuation contributions, leave entitlements or workers compensation insurance. Travel expenses will be reimbursed as well as other project related costs. A total of 440 hours are available. The project is to be finished within a 10 to 12 months' time period.

Application process:

- Include your CV
- In the accompanying letter address the skills and knowledge criteria
- List three referees, one of whom is your church leader, who will be contacted
- Closing date: 5.00 pm, Friday 31 July
- Applications to be emailed to info@nswec.org.au
- For further information about the position, contact Wies Schuiringa, vice-president of the NSW Ecumenical Council mobile 0439 024 397

This position has been funded by the National Council of Churches Glenburnie Fund