POSITION DESCRIPTION – GENERAL PRACTITIONER

POSITION TITLE: General Practitioner

LOCATION Urapuntja Health Service, Amengernternenh Community, NT

BASE SALARY $280,000 per annum (pro-rata)

TOTAL SALARY $312,874 (base plus leave loading and super) with additional annual bonus $6k

HOURS Full-time 38 hour p.w.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS Limited term contract – 12 months

POSITION SUMMARY

The General Practitioner (‘GP’) is responsible for the delivery of medical services to clients of the Urapuntja Health Service Aboriginal Corporation (‘UHSAC’). The GP works as part of a clinical team including RANs, trainee Aboriginal Health Practitioners, administrative and community health staff to provide high quality primary health care services to clients in the clinic and at outstations as required.

There is no after-hours or on-call requirement in this position. However, if the GP is present in the community and the duty RAN requests assistance to support the management of a patient in an emergency, it is expected that he/she will make themselves available at any time to do so.

COMMUNITY & ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE

The Urapuntja Health Service is based in the Amengernternenh Community, Utopia Homelands and situated on the Sandover Highway some 280 km north east of Alice Springs. Utopia Homelands is a region comprised of 16 Outstation communities spread out over some 3230 square km of desert. UHSAC developed from many years of negotiations by Aboriginal people to have their own health service.

UHSAC is an Aboriginal community controlled health service with a Board of Directors which is elected from and by the community at the Annual General Meeting held each year. The Directors meet regularly to discuss issues and make decisions relevant to the Health Service. There are approximately 800 - 1000 people who are mainly Anmatyerre and Alyawarra speakers in the service area. Distances to the outstations vary from 5 to 100 kms from the clinic.

Further information about the Utopia Homelands and the Urapuntja Health Service may be found via this link.

Reporting Relationships
This position reports to the CEO and works closely with the CEO and the Clinic Manager to deliver clinical services. No positions report to the General Practitioner.

Challenges & Constraints
This position is situated in a remote location in an Aboriginal Community where, as an employee of the UHSAC, the GP is expected to be sensitive to and respect the cultural values of the community in which he/she works and lives. The GP is expected to conduct himself/herself at all times in a manner that reflects this understanding.

A substantial level of personal resilience is needed to live and work effectively in an isolated area.

The GP will be required from time to time to undertake travel by 4WD over unmade roads.

KEY DUTIES & ACCOUNTABILITIES
The GP is accountable to the CEO for his/her professional practice which should reflect an appropriate knowledge of current medical practice care standards. Key duties may include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. **OPERATIONAL**
   - Undertake clinical consultation in an holistic manner following protocols defined in the *Central Australian Remote Practitioners Association (CARPA) Standard Treatment Manual* and the *Minymaku Kutju Tjukurpa Women’s Business Manual*.
   - Participate in continuous quality improvement programs and support the clinic staff and CEO with any associated change processes to improve health outcomes, service efficiency, and patient and staff satisfaction, and support accreditation of the health service.
   - Ensure effective record collection including patient health summaries, recording all details of consultations in the patient files, organising follow-up and referrals as necessary.
   - Arrange pathology tests and other investigations and referrals according to need and follow up results in a timely manner.
   - Provide health education and counselling during consultation as needed.
   - Conduct preventative/screening procedures and support relevant research programs undertaken in the region.
   - Provide primary health care to people with chronic diseases, including care planning and health education, encouraging client self-management of health problems.
   - Treat acute sickness making referrals to hospital as required.

2. **OTHER FUNCTIONS**
   - Contribute to and participate in health education events relevant to Urapuntja, surrounding areas and outstations.
   - Work in a cooperative manner with local people taking into consideration their cultural practices and beliefs, especially in relation to health, wellbeing and Western medicine.
   - Develop and maintain close working relationships with external health service providers to ensure coordinated continuity of care.
   - Work collaboratively with the CEO to develop and update clinical policies and procedures.
   - Recommend the purchase, replacement and/or maintenance of equipment required for evidence based clinical practice to the CEO.
• Participate in continuing professional development and maintain currency regarding Aboriginal health issues.
• Assist RANs and AHPs with clinical assessments and provide clinical advice as required.
• From time to time perform other duties as directed by the CEO.

Compliance
Maintain awareness of current and new legislation to ensure personal professional practice is compliant with all statutory and regulatory obligations including infection control, hazardous materials & safe handling/disposal of medical waste, records management, confidentiality, WHS and accreditation.

Workplace Health & Safety
The GP is expected to work safely to protect himself/herself and others from injury, to follow all WH&S instructions and to demonstrate safe work practices at all times.

SELECTION CRITERIA - QUALIFICATIONS, COMPETENCIES & EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Essential Criteria
• Registered with the Australian Medical Board, AHPRA, as a Medical Practitioner.
• Vocationally registered with experience in general practice of no less than 5 years.
• Demonstrated recent experience in providing a broad range of clinical interventions including but not limited to, adult health checks, chronic disease management plans and brief interventions.
• Demonstrated understanding of the principles of comprehensive primary health care and Aboriginal community controlled health services as well as an understanding of the issues affecting the health and well-being of Aboriginal people in Central Australia.
• Highly-developed interpersonal and communication skills including the ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with people from diverse cultures.
• Computer skills sufficient to competently manage electronic patient records, word processing, e-mails and the capacity to learn how to use new programs and systems.
• Demonstrated commitment to own professional development and sharing knowledge and skills with work colleagues.
• Capacity to work effectively in a small team of health professionals.
• Willingness to incorporate Aboriginal values into clinical practice.
• Current NT Drivers License (manual) or ability to obtain one.
• Current NT Ochre Card (Working with Children Clearance).

Desirable Criteria
• Relevant post graduate qualifications, such as Obstetrics and Gynecology, Child Health, Public Health, Accident and Emergency, Primary Health Care and/or experience in Aboriginal health.
• Fellow of ACCRM.

APPLICATION DETAILS
Applications must include a response to the Selection Criteria as outlined above, a CV and contact details for two referees.

Information about applying for an Ochre Card may be found at: http://www.workingwithchildren.nt.gov.au/
Your application and other documents should be submitted electronically to Claire Thomson at email: 
claire.thomson7@bigpond.com

For further information or to discuss the position contact Claire on tel: (08) 8339 4650 or mob: 0447 880 686

APPOINTMENT CONDITIONS

In addition to the above requirements, the appointee must be willing to adhere to the UHSAC Code of Conduct, Workplace Health & Safety requirements and to follow all UHSAC policies and procedures