Position Description

Position: School Psychologist

Position Allocation: 0.4FTE (ideally over 3 days per week)

Reports to: Principal

Date: Commencing 2017

Primary Focus: The successful applicant will form part of a team of student support staff made up of the current School Psychologist and three Individual Needs Teachers and the School Chaplain.

Background
Cornish College opened in 2012 as the Uniting Church’s newest coeducational school. Located on 42 hectares of parkland in Bangholme next to the National Water Sports Centre and adjacent to the suburbs of Patterson Lakes and Chelsea, the College offers programs from ELC to Year 12. Enrolments are growing at Cornish College with 615 students from ELC to Year 12 in 2016 and projected growth into 2017 of 690. The ELC program which is based upon the Reggio Emilia approach and the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme runs from ELC to Year 6. This approach to teaching and learning is embraced in a multidisciplinary, concept driven inquiry-based program in the secondary sections of the College.

The College is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and all staff are expected to observe the College Code of Conduct.

We take an holistic approach to the educational program which centres around a unique model of teaching and learning based upon the notion of educating for a sustainable future. With a strong emphasis on respecting the multiple intelligences, the College strives to see all young people thriving in the areas in which they have a special aptitude. In line with this thinking the College offers vibrant programs across the curriculum including Visual and Performing Arts, Sport and student leadership.

The Position
Cornish College is seeking to appoint a part-time School Psychologist of 0.4 FTE. It is preferable that counselling services are spread across the week and over 3 days.

The successful applicant will form part of a team of student support staff made up of the current School Psychologist and three Individual Needs Teachers and the School Chaplain.

This position is responsible to the Principal but it is expected that the successful applicant will work in conjunction with the section Team Leaders and Deputy Principal.

The Person
The applicant should be an experienced psychologist who is eligible for membership of the Australian Psychological Society. Preference will be given to applicants who have experience in teaching and counselling school children from ELC to Senior Secondary and working with their families.

Duties will include:
- counselling individual students,
- counselling families,
- working with teachers, as appropriate, to develop social and learning strategies etc for students in their classes,
- liaising with the Principal on matters relating to student welfare and progress,
- developing pastoral care programs, eg drug and alcohol awareness, anti-bullying, human relations and development,
- conducting intellectual assessments including individual assessments
- liaising with outside agencies as appropriate

At Cornish College, our focus is on sustainability, and integral to this is personal sustainability and student well-being. The school psychologist at Cornish College offers support for students and families, and works collaboratively with students, staff and families when issues arise in a student’s academic, emotional or social development.

Students are referred to the school psychologist via the Deputy Principal, Team Leaders, Individual Needs Teachers, Class Teachers, and parents and students may also self-refer.
Types of issues that may be referred to the school psychologist include (among others):

- Counselling to assist with motivation, organisation and study skills
- Social issues – relationships with peers, conflict resolution, etc
- Behavioural and emotional issues – such as anxiety, anger, depression, managing emotions and behaviour.
- Family difficulties
- Help with challenging circumstances
- Parent education
- Assessments (cognitive, educational, behavioural and emotional)

The school psychologist works with students individually and confidentially, within small groups, classroom programs and activities, group and individual testing, parent and staff consultation, running specific group programs as required and policy development. The school psychologist is registered with the Australian Health Practitioners Registration Authority, and is bound by the professional code of ethics for psychologists.

All applicants to the College should note:

- Cornish College staff are expected to be involved in the College’s cocurricular program depending upon their particular skills and interests. With all these tasks it is the expectation of the College that staff will work collaboratively to share responsibilities as evenly as possible.
- All staff are expected to observe the College Code of Conduct and must be able to demonstrate an understanding of appropriate behaviours when engaging with children.
- The College is committed to an active partnership with parents and parent expertise is used to enhance the educational program wherever possible.
- All staff are expected to attend staff meetings as arranged.
- There is also an expectation that all members of staff will attend the major school functions of the year.
- All staff are expected to be supportive of the Christian ethos of the College as would be expected of a Uniting Church School.

Applications

Applications should include:

- a brief cover letter to the Principal
- a current resume, including the name and contact numbers of three professional referees, two of whom must be able to comment on the applicant’s professional work (or training) during the last five years
- any supporting documents that address the above criteria

Emailed applications need to be submitted as one combined PDF file.

All non-teaching staff at Cornish College must hold a current Working with Children’s Check for Employment purposes and will be required to obtain a current Police Check.

The successful applicant will be required to produce original copies (from which a photocopy will be made) of Working with Children’s Check, transcripts of academic qualifications claimed and Police Check.

Expressions of interest should be submitted by 9.00am on Monday 12 December 2016 to:

Mrs Willeka Cox  
Human Resources Manager  
Cornish College  
Email: employment@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au