

VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTION



Position Title:	Family Literacy Project – Reading Buddies Volunteer
Directorate:	Community Services
Department:	Community Arts, Culture & Libraries
Location of Position:	Dandenong and Springvale Libraries Various schools in Greater Dandenong
Time commitment:	Volunteers are required once a week for 1–2 hours. There are programs during school hours and after school.
Reports to:	The first line of support will be the Family Literacy Project Officer, followed by the Volunteer Program

Objective

The Family Literacy Project – Reading Buddies volunteers assist primary school aged children in the Greater Dandenong area by providing English language and literacy support.

Program Overview

Library staff and trained volunteers read and share stories with children of primary school age and their families in a relaxed and positive environment to encourage a love of books, reading and literacy. Volunteers may also be required to help with homework tasks. The Family Literacy Project provides a fun and friendly environment for children to learn and develop their language, literacy and social skills. The program takes place in Greater Dandenong Libraries and in a number of local primary schools.

Key responsibilities

- Convey the message that reading and learning are fun
- Encourage effective learning habits
- Assist children in practicing reading and English language skills
- Foster a safe and supportive environment that builds positive relationships
- Provide conversation and social support.

Skills, experience and other requirements

- Punctual and reliable
- Passion for reading
- Ability to communicate the value of reading
- Competency in the English language
- Ability to provide a caring, kind and friendly learning environment
- Be understanding and empathetic
- Respect for the diverse community of Greater Dandenong
- Respect in all interactions
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Maintain student and organisation confidentiality
- A minimum commitment of at least one semester is required
- Satisfactory police check - at Council expense
- Current Working with Children Check – at no cost
- Awareness of safety issues and adherence to Occupational Health and Safety practices.

Organisational Requirements

- A committed volunteer, behaving in a manner consistent with personal and professional workplace standards as outlined in Council's Code of Conduct and other Council policies, procedures and guidelines.
- Make a positive contribution to Council and be mindful of the requirements outlined in the Victorian Charter of Human Rights in the provision of service delivery while respecting the rights of colleagues and customers at all times.
- Act respectfully, responsibly and be accountable for your actions.
- Adhere to Council's occupational health, safety and return to work (RTW) policies and procedures and participate in health and safety training programs and initiatives.
- Understanding of and ability to work with diversity within the workplace and community.
- Perform other duties as directed within the limits of acquired skills, knowledge and training.
- Manage Council records in accordance with the relevant Council policies and corporate requirements to protect personal information.

The following general physical and functional requirements may apply to this position:

- Manual handling tasks eg lifting and carrying
- Prolonged periods of sitting / standing
- Long / short distance travel

Volunteer Insurance

- Everyone is covered by Medicare.
- Many people have their own additional private cover and/or their pension benefits.
- In addition, Council has Personal Accident Insurance for registered volunteers who are between 16 and 90 years of age. Please note reduced cover for Covered Persons over age seventy five (75) years.
- Council's insurances do not cover individuals' private vehicles. We trust that volunteers' vehicles are comprehensively insured. Volunteers will be liable for any fines incurred whilst driving their own vehicle.

Additional information

- A current Victorian Driver's Licence is essential when you are required to drive a Council vehicle or your own vehicle.
- When using your own vehicle third party insurance is required.
- It is advisable to inform your insurance company that you will be using your car for volunteering activities for Council.
- Fully comprehensive vehicle insurance is recommended.

Support/training

Your first line of support is the Family Literacy Project Officer, followed by the Volunteer Program.

A thorough induction of the service will be provided by the Family Literacy Project Officer.

In addition, volunteers are offered access to a minimum of four training sessions throughout the year on a variety of topics which have been approved as applicable to volunteering roles within Council.

Two formal volunteer recognition events will be held annually.

All volunteers will be provided with a position description and name badge.

Other comments

Any parking or speeding fines are the volunteer's responsibility.

A satisfactory police check is essential (Council will cover cost for this check).

In addition, you will be required to complete a Working with Children Check. There is no charge for having a Working with Children Check processed. The application is completed on-line via the Department of Justice website. Full instructions will be provided by Volunteer Program staff in advance.

Council Volunteer Program Contacts

Email: VolunteersProgram@cgd.vic.gov.au
Website: www.greaterdandenong.com
Phone numbers: 8571 5335 / 0408 579 587

Values

At the City of Greater Dandenong we have adopted a set of values we call 'REACH' which define who we are and how we interact with each other and our community. REACH stands for:

Respectful
Engaged
Accountable
Creative
Honest

GREATER DANDENONG AN ORGANISATION OF EXCEPTIONAL CHARACTER



- We **respect** and care about our community, each other and ourselves.
- We act with **integrity** at all times and in all matters.
- We take time to **listen** to and seek to understand the other point of view.
- We strive to understand and respect the **diversity** of our community and our workplace.
- We understand **our role** in the community and **respect** the responsibility that comes with it.



- We **listen** to our community and respond.
- We **work together** with our community and each other, to achieve the best outcome.
- We have the **confidence** to **challenge** the status quo, to reach for better outcomes.
- We are **action-oriented** in identifying and responding to new challenges.



- We are **proud** of our city, our community and our achievements.
- We spend our time and effort on **solutions** rather than looking for someone to blame.
- We take **responsibility** for our actions.



- We **care** about getting the best outcomes.
- We constantly ask: *What's the **future** and **what's possible**?*
- We have the **courage** to try new ideas.
- We strive for **excellence** in everything we do.



- We tell the **truth**, even when we know people may not want to hear it.
- We form our opinions and give advice from sound, **evidence based** research.
- We act with humility and apply the **highest standards** of ethical behavior to everything we do.

