Child Safety Officer

Overview

What are a child safety officer’s responsibilities?
Child Safety Officers are responsible for delivering statutory child protection services including assessment, intervention, casework and case management.

Working as a child safety officer is a challenging and rewarding job that offers a range of career opportunities such as policy and practice development, staff management, mentoring and training.

Child safety officers:
- empower families to safely care for their children and participate in the child protection process
- develop collaborative assessment, case planning and safety planning processes
- work in partnership with peak bodies, service providers and communities to deliver best outcomes for children and families
- work in partnership with recognised entities to support Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children.

What qualifications do I need?
Child Safety Officers must hold a bachelor level qualification from an accredited Australian tertiary institution. More comprehensive information about entry level pathways that are acceptable for the Child Safety Officer role is available from the Child Protection Careers page.

What personal attributes are needed?
Child safety officers:
- understand children and young people
- want to make a difference
- have excellent planning, organisational and casework skills
- have a strong sense of justice
- possess excellent verbal and written communication skills
- enjoy a challenge
- can work in difficult situations and within multidisciplinary teams
- are open-minded, grounded and emotionally mature.
Note: It is a mandatory requirement of the child safety officer role to hold a Class C driver’s licence.

Become a child safety officer if you want a career that:
- is rewarding and challenging
- provides professional support
- provides ongoing training and professional development
- provides a competitive salary, flexible work arrangements and career progression.

Child safety reforms
As part of the Stronger Families reform program, child protection is undergoing significant change in Queensland. The department’s focus will be on supporting families to keep their children safely at home. In line with this, your work as a child safety officer will be guided by a new strengths-based and safety-oriented practice framework. The new practice framework will place a greater emphasis on engaging families so they can participate more meaningfully in the child protection process.

Location
Child safety officer positions are located throughout Queensland. Incentives such as additional income and recreation leave, as well as accommodation assistance and airfares, are available in some rural and remote locations. For more information about rural and remote incentives visit the Child Protection Careers page.

Salary and entitlements
Entry-level Child safety officers can earn between $58,573 and $74,968. Salary within this range is dependent on qualifications, skills, knowledge and experience.

All newly appointed child safety officers participate in a mandatory training program designed to develop specific knowledge and skills relevant to child protection practitioners. The program builds upon foundation knowledge, skills and practical experience gained in an undergraduate degree.

Child safety officers are offered flexible work arrangements including accrued time off. They are also provided with 20 days recreation leave per annum, 10 days sick leave and 14 weeks maternity/adoption leave, as per the department’s policies.

Staff are provided with free counselling, professional support, and if you study or plan to study, you may be entitled to receive leave assistance and/or an education allowance. The department offers opportunities to develop your career through numerous pathways.

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