

VSA Assignment Description

Assignment Title	Plunket Nurse/Well-Child Trainer
Country	Cook Islands
Location of Partner Organisation	Rarotonga (and at times the outer islands)
Partner Organisation	Cook Islands Child Welfare Association
Duration	12 months, with the option to extend to 24 months
Sustainable Development Goals	



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1. Partner organisation overview

The Cook Islands Child Welfare Association (CICWA) is one of the oldest non-profit voluntary organisations in the Cook Islands. They were formed in 1933 by a small group of women who dedicated their time to helping Clinical Nurses throughout community clinics on Rarotonga.

Today, CICWA works closely with the Cook Islands Ministry of Health - Te Marae Ora, and Clinical Public Health Nurses to promote health awareness and to monitor the health care of young children aged 0-4 years.

Paunu clinics (similar to Plunket check clinics in New Zealand) include the weighing of babies, checking of skin conditions, discussing any problems with parents, and ensuring vaccinations are up to date. Paunu clinics are held across 27 clinics on Rarotonga, 8 clinics on Aitutaki, and 6 on Mangaia.

CICWA also run development programmes, and plan and create workshops in order to improve the health of children and families.

2. Assignment overview

The main focus of this assignment is to support the Paunu, and the monitoring of children and mothers' health on Rarotonga and the outer islands.

The volunteer will work alongside the CICWA team to deliver its services with more flexibility, accessibility and knowledge. They will work with the team to improve access and attendance at clinics, and ensure specialist clinical services are evidence based and are meeting the needs of client families.

The volunteer will also work closely with, and develop the capacity of, the volunteers who are instrumental to the running of the clinics, developing and delivering relevant training sessions, and providing ongoing advice and support.



3. Goal/outcomes/outputs

Goal

Paunu clinics are staffed by trained volunteers and are delivering accessible, coordinated and evidence-based services, providing care and education for children and their families which is focused on their health and wellbeing.

Outcome 1

Cook Islands children aged 0-4 and their families are regularly attending Paunu Clinics which deliver high quality services.

- Alongside CICWA staff:
 - assess the current levels of attendance and any barriers to attendance
 - develop strategies to address attendance and encourage families to attend clinics
- Model specialist evidence-based support and advice for new parents and families
- Support staff to deliver services which best meet the needs of their clients

Outcome 2

Pauna volunteers are confident and competent in their duties at the clinics.

Working in collaboration with CICWA staff:

- Assess current capacity strengths and gaps, with a focus on knowledge and skills related to the wellbeing of babies and young children
- Assist in developing and delivering relevant training for Pauna volunteers, based on the needs of their clients and on their knowledge and skills gaps
- Provide ongoing advice and support to strengthen Paunu volunteers' knowledge and skills

Outcome 3

CICWA is delivering health and well-being clinics and programmes which are part of a coordinated and strategic approach to its work

- Assess current levels of knowledge around relevant programmes and practices
- Assist in developing, strengthening and delivering evidence-based health education and promotion programmes
- Provide advice and support to strengthen monitoring and evaluation practices, systems, and processes

4. Reporting and working relationships and capacity building

The volunteer will report directly to the Executive Office and will be accountable to the Executive Board. On a day-to-day basis, the volunteer will predominately work with Paunu Clinic volunteers and Public Health Nurses.

Capacity building will take place across three main areas:

- Upskilling Paunu staff
- Training and support for Paunu volunteers
- Specialist support and advice for new parents and families

The volunteer and Cook Islands Child Welfare Association will have an ongoing relationship with the VSA programme manager in terms of assignment monitoring, reporting, professional advice and personal support.



As needs on the ground may change over time, the volunteer is encouraged to review and update the Assignment Description on arrival in consultation with the partner organisation and VSA Programme Manager. By their very nature, development situations can involve significant change, so it is advisable that the volunteer periodically review and reflect on the Assignment Description throughout the Assignment to ensure the best development outcomes are being achieved.

5. Selection criteria/position requirements

Person specifications (professional)

Essential

- A Well Child/Plunket Nursing registration
- Experience teaching and mentoring others
- Experience in developing and implementing health education and promotion programmes
- Sound knowledge of health education and communication strategies
- Experience in health curriculum design and training

Desirable

- Experience in delivering the Parents as First Teachers (PAFT) programme
- Administrative experience
- Counselling experience

Personal specification (personal)

Essential

- Flexibility
- Innovative
- Cultural competence – working with Pacific communities

Desirable

- Speaker of or willingness to learn Cook Islands Maori

6. VSA Essential Attributes

- Commitment to volunteering, to VSA and to the partner organisation
- Cross cultural awareness
- Adaptability and a willingness to approach change or newness positively
- Able to form good relationships, both personally and professionally, with work colleagues and in the community
- Resilience and an ability to manage setbacks
- Initiative and resourcefulness
- An ability to facilitate learning through skills exchange

7. Country Context

For more information about the Cook Islands, see <https://vsa.org.nz/about-vsa/countryregion/cook-islands>



Additional information

Residency status

VSA volunteers must be New Zealand citizens or have New Zealand permanent residency status, and currently living in NZ.

Pre-departure briefing

As part of the volunteer's contract, successful candidates will be required to take part in a pre-departure briefing course run by VSA in Wellington and complete all required pre-reading.

Final appointment

Final appointment will be subject to satisfactory medical and immigration clearances (costs covered by VSA), partner organisation acceptance, and successful completion of the pre-departure briefing course.

Family status

VSA supports partners to accompany volunteers on assignments of six months or longer. However volunteers with accompanying dependents will not be considered for this assignment.

Fundraising

Volunteers are encouraged to fundraise at least \$1000 with the support of VSA's fundraising team. Accompanying partners are encouraged to raise the same amount. All funds raised will help VSA keep its programmes in action and support future volunteers.

Vaccination requirements

Potential volunteers are advised that VSA's insurers require volunteers to be inoculated, prior to departure, in accordance with the instructions of VSA's medical adviser. VSA covers the cost of any required vaccinations.

Children's Act

While on assignment, VSA volunteers may be required to work with children and/or may choose to participate in informal activities in their own time that involve interactions with children (such as coaching teams or teaching English). VSA is committed to the protection of vulnerable children and adults, which also includes meeting our commitment under the Children's Act 2014.

The information requested during the application process is necessary to assist VSA to determine applicant suitability to work and/or interact regularly with children, and is part of a series of pre-selection checks undertaken on all applicants for VSA assignments.

Volunteer package

The volunteer's package includes the following:

Reimbursements and grants

1. Volunteers will receive an establishment grant of NZ\$750 to help them set up in their country of assignment. For volunteers with an accompanying partner (whether or not that partner is also a VSA volunteer), VSA will pay an establishment grant of NZ\$1,100 per couple.
2. For two year assignments, the volunteer will receive a rest and respite grant of NZ\$1,000 on completion of the first year.
3. A resettlement grant of NZ\$200 will be paid for each month the volunteer is on assignment. This is payable on completion of the assignment.
4. The volunteer will receive a monthly living allowance of NZD \$1,300



Accommodation

Basic, comfortable furnished accommodation will be sourced by VSA. In some circumstances volunteers may be asked to share accommodation.

Airfares and baggage allowance

VSA will provide the volunteer with economy airfares to and from New Zealand for their assignment plus a baggage allowance.

Insurance

VSA will provide travel insurance to cover baggage and personal property, and non-routine medical expenses for the duration of the assignment. Further details of the insurance cover will be provided during the volunteer pre-departure briefing.

Utilities

VSA will reimburse volunteers reasonable expenses for household utilities while on assignment.

Final terms and conditions relating to the specific volunteer assignment will be confirmed in a personalised volunteer contract.

