

Projects and Policy Advisor

This position will drive policy, sector engagement and systemic advocacy in VCOSS' disability portfolio, in the wake of the Disability Royal Commission and the NDIS Review.

VCOSS takes an intersectional approach to its policy and advocacy work. The incumbent will work in a way that recognises intersections between disability and gender, age, cultural and linguistic diversity, and 'joins the dots' between disability and systems such as child and family services, education, employment, housing, health, justice, and transport.

The position will also be a key resource for the Disability Advocacy Resource Unit (DARU), a Statewide organisation, auspiced by VCOSS, which builds the capacity of the Victorian disability advocacy sector. The incumbent will undertake strategic projects for DARU, support DARU's engagement with agencies funded under the Victorian Disability Advocacy Program and provide resources that assist them to drive systemic advocacy.

DETAILS

Team	Policy and Advocacy
Classification	5.1 – 5.5
Status	Parental leave cover (1-year fixed term contract), Full-time position (0.8 FTE negotiable)
Salary	\$94,733 - \$108,784
Reports to	Director of Policy and Advocacy
Located	Level 8, 128 Exhibition Street, Melbourne. (VCOSS staff are currently working to a hybrid home-office model.)

KEY TASKS

1. Identify/update/refine policy objectives and advocacy goals for the disability portfolio, including its intersections with other policy areas and service systems.
2. Monitor the policy environment and identify opportunities to advance policy and advocacy goals relevant to disability.

NB: Allocated policy portfolios may change from time to time according to the needs and strategic priorities of VCOSS.

3. Effectively consult and engage with VCOSS members, the DARU network and other stakeholders, to ensure our work is deeply member/sector informed and is used to identify, understand and prioritise issues and inform our policy development.
4. Work collaboratively with members, the broader sector and other allies to develop and advance action on systemic advocacy priorities. This may include (but not be limited to) establishing, leading or participating in coalitions for change or producing/facilitating access to resources that build the sector's advocacy capability and capacity.
5. Complete projects on-time and to high quality, in accordance with VCOSS and DARU priorities.
6. Work collaboratively with VCOSS and DARU staff to identify opportunities to strengthen our impact.
7. Contribute expertise to whole-of-team and whole-of-organisation pieces of work (for example, VCOSS' annual State Budget submission, DARU's annual Strengthening Disability Advocacy Conference).
8. Represent VCOSS and DARU at external meetings, networks and forums as agreed with the Director of Policy and Advocacy (VCOSS) or Manager, Disability Advocacy Resource Unit (DARU).

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Experience working in a policy, research or related position.
2. Experience working in the community sector (or an adjacent sector, such as health or education), government, academia or similar.
3. Knowledge and a commitment to the objectives and values of VCOSS and DARU, and a capacity to represent VCOSS and DARU views as required.
4. High-level written and analytical skills, with a track record of providing authoritative and strategic policy advice.
5. Excellent organisational skills, with flexibility to prioritise a range of competing demands and work to deadlines. This includes evidence of completing submissions, research and/or projects on time and to a high quality.
6. Highly developed interpersonal and diplomacy skills, with the ability to work independently or as part of a team.
7. Proven ability to develop and maintain effective partnerships with a diverse range of stakeholders with competing agendas.
8. Relevant tertiary qualification or equivalent.

ORGANISATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Reports to Director Policy and Advocacy

Supervises None

TO APPLY

Please send your written application – comprising a short cover letter, a resume, and a response to the key selection criteria – to vcoss@vcoss.org.au by 5pm on Monday 18th March 2024. Please note, applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, so early applications are encouraged. Please take care to check your application contains all three elements (a short cover letter, a resume, and a response to the key selection criteria) before you submit it.

Inquiries about the role can be directed to Policy and Advocacy Director **Deborah Fewster** at deborah.fewster@vcoss.org.au



ABOUT VCOSS

VCOSS is the peak body for Victoria's social and community sector, and the state's premier social advocacy body.

We work towards a Victoria free from poverty and disadvantage, where all people and communities are supported to thrive. We champion wellbeing and inclusive growth.

VCOSS supports and advocates on behalf of its members. We respect the unique perspectives of people with experience of poverty or inequality, and seek to strengthen and elevate their voices.

vcoss.org.au

HOW WE WORK

- We act ethically
- We lead and support collaborative initiatives for a thriving community sector
- We maintain productive relationships across the political spectrum
- We work in collaboration with our members
- We are transparent in our work and we consult widely
- We value and draw on the direct experiences of people affected by poverty and inequality
- We draw on the wisdom and expertise of our diverse member base
- We promote and advance the research and evidence base to drive advocacy priorities

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

VCOSS acknowledges the traditional owners of Country, and pays respect to Elders past and present, and to emerging leaders. Our office is located on the sovereign, unceded lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation.

