

Job Title:	Government Engagement Lead	Job Category:	1 FTE
Department/Area:	School Services	Travel Required:	Yes
Reporting to:	School Services Manager	Salary Packaging:	Yes
Location:	Head Office		
Direct Reports:	Nil	Functional Accountability:	COFS (local government engagement strategy); CEO (state and federal government engagement strategy).

Role and Responsibilities

Reporting to the School Services Manager (SSM), the Government Engagement Lead is responsible for building, developing and maintaining YouthCARE's relationships with government representatives across their region. The focus of this role is government engagement across all three tiers - local, state and federal – building relationships that grow awareness of, support for and investment in YouthCARE's mission.

The role works within the regional direction set by the SSM and the statewide government engagement strategy held by the CEO (state and federal) and the COFS (local government) - translating both into active, trusted regional relationships. Government Engagement Leads operate as a statewide functional team, each embedded in a region but collaborating across all regions to share intelligence, approaches and opportunities, and to ensure a consistent, professional government engagement presence for YouthCARE across Western Australia.

Spiritual Formation

- Approach government engagement as an expression of YouthCARE's mission - understanding that every relationship built in the community is ultimately in service of young people experiencing God's love and presence in their schools.
- Represent YouthCARE with integrity, warmth and genuine care for the communities being served - modelling the values of the organisation in every stakeholder interaction.
- Participate actively in the SSM's regional spiritual formation rhythms and YouthCARE's broader formation practices.
- Must be actively engaged in the life of a Christian church that affirms the triune Godhead of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Local Government Engagement

- Build and maintain genuine, productive relationships with local government representatives across the region - including mayors, councillors, CEOs and relevant officers - positioning YouthCARE as a valued partner in community wellbeing.
- Identify and pursue opportunities for local government funding, in-kind support and formal partnership with YouthCARE - working within the financial strategy set by the COFS.
- Represent YouthCARE at local government forums, community advisory groups and civic events relevant to the region.
- Monitor local government policy directions, budget cycles and community investment priorities - identifying opportunities and risks for YouthCARE and reporting intelligence to the SSM and COFS.
- Develop and maintain a clear picture of the local government landscape within the region - understanding the council structures, key decision-makers and current levels of YouthCARE engagement.
- Maintain accurate and timely records of local government relationships and engagement activity within YouthCARE's systems, contributing to the COFS's consolidated government engagement reporting.

State and Federal Government Engagement

- Build and maintain relationships with state and federal government representatives within the region - including Members of Parliament, senators, electorate officers and relevant parliamentary or ministerial staff - supporting YouthCARE's statewide government relations strategy.
- Identify opportunities to brief members of parliament, and their staff, on YouthCARE's mission, evidence base and community impact - connecting elected representatives to the chaplaincy and CVE work happening in schools within their electorates.
- Facilitate regional school or community visits by government representatives where appropriate, providing compelling, evidence-based encounters with YouthCARE's mission in action.
- Working in collaboration with the Events and Fundraising Officer, MOCEO and CEO, support the planning, organising and management of key government engagement events.
- Work within the statewide government engagement strategy held by the CEO - ensuring regional activity advances the CEO's strategic goals and that all government engagement is appropriately coordinated and apolitical in framing.
- Surface regional government intelligence, emerging political risks and relationship opportunities to the SSM and CEO in a timely and accurate way.
- Maintain accurate and timely records of state and federal government relationships and engagement activity within YouthCARE's systems, contributing to the CEO's consolidated government relations reporting.

GEL Team Collaboration

- Function as an active member of the statewide Government Engagement Lead team - sharing government intelligence, relationship insights and engagement approaches across regions with genuine generosity.
- Contribute to the development of consistent, high-quality government engagement approaches across all regions, working with the CEO and COFS to ensure regional activity reflects and advances statewide strategy.
- Participate in regular GEL team meetings, peer learning and collaborative activities.
- Share intelligence about government policy directions, political dynamics and emerging opportunities or risks with the CEO, COFS and SSM to inform statewide strategy.

SSM, CEO and COFS Collaboration

- Provide the SSM with regular, accurate reporting on government relationship health and emerging opportunities or concerns within the region.
- Work within the regional direction set by the SSM, ensuring government engagement activity supports the SSM's broader regional plan and priorities.
- Work within the statewide government engagement strategies developed and owned by the CEO (state and federal) and the COFS (local government) - ensuring regional activity advances their strategic goals and remains consistent with YouthCARE's apolitical positioning.
- Proactively surface regional government landscape intelligence so the SSM, CEO and COFS are never caught without context in high-stakes government relationship conversations.

Cross-Functional Collaboration

- Work with the School Engagement Leads in the region to facilitate government representative visits to schools, supporting the development of compelling, evidence-based encounters with YouthCARE's mission.
- Work with the Community Partnership Lead to identify stakeholders who may have connections to both government and church or community networks, maximising relationship leverage across the region.
- Work with the Communications and Marketing team to ensure YouthCARE's government communications are compelling, current and consistent with the organisation's broader messaging and apolitical positioning.
- Contribute to regional reporting and planning as required by the SSM.

General

- Contributes to the development and improvement of the performance of the organisation.
- Upholds the Vision, Mission and Values of the organisation.
- YouthCARE upholds and promotes Child Safe policies and procedures.

Key Performance Indicators

Government Relationship Growth

- Year-on-year growth in the number of local government representatives actively engaged with YouthCARE across the region; quality of relationships assessed annually.
- Local government funding and partnership opportunities identified and developed within the region.
- Year-on-year growth in the number of local governments actively supporting (financial and in kind) YouthCARE's work.
- Year-on-year growth in the number of state and federal government representatives briefed on YouthCARE's mission and community impact within the region.
- Government representative visits to schools or YouthCARE events facilitated annually; representative feedback positive.

Intelligence and Reporting

- Government engagement records maintained accurately and up to date in YouthCARE's systems; reporting to COFS and CEO completed at agreed intervals.
- Timely and accurate intelligence on regional government dynamics, policy directions and emerging risks surfaced to SSM, CEO and COFS.

GEL Team Contribution

- Active participation in statewide GEL team meetings and collaborative activities; peer feedback positive.
- Contribution to statewide consistency of government engagement approach; intelligence shared generously and proactively across the team.

Selection Criteria

Essential

- Demonstrated experience in government relations, stakeholder management or a closely related field.
- Proven ability to build genuine, trust-based relationships with government representatives across multiple tiers of government.
- Strong understanding of local, state and federal government structures, political processes and the factors that motivate government support for organisations like YouthCARE.
- Demonstrated ability to translate mission and values into compelling, evidence-based narratives for government audiences - communicating the impact of chaplaincy and CVE in language that resonates with all stakeholders and motivates genuine engagement and support.

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills - including the ability to represent YouthCARE credibly and compellingly in government and civic settings.
- High degree of political awareness and the ability to engage across political lines with consistency, integrity and an apolitical approach.
- Strong organisational and relationship management skills, with the ability to manage a wide portfolio of relationships across the region.
- Alignment with YouthCARE's mission, vision and values, and genuine commitment to the wellbeing of young people and school communities.
- Must be actively engaged in the life of a Christian church that affirms the triune Godhead of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Current Working with Children Check and NCCHC clearance, or ability to obtain.
- Current valid driver's licence and willingness to travel across the region.

Desirable

- Experience working within or alongside government - including local government, parliamentary offices or government agencies.
- Experience in the community services, education or not-for-profit sector.
- Established networks within the regional government or business community.
- Familiarity with YouthCARE's programs, services and government engagement model.
- Qualifications in public policy, community development, communications, management or a related field.

Reviewed By:		Date:	
Approved By:	Tamsyn Cullingford	Date:	