

Community Farmer – Parental Leave (0.4 FTE)

POSITION DESCRIPTION

About Sustain

Sustain: The Australian Food Network is a health promotion charity specialising in designing and building sustainable, healthy and equitable food systems. As a national food systems ‘think, do and network organisation,’ we conduct research, develop policy, deliver inspiring projects and bring together diverse actors around a powerful shared advocacy agenda for transformative change.

We are committed to transitioning to a food system that nourishes people and the ecosystems that sustain us all. We give communities, governments and organisations the tools they need to help them become empowered food citizens and to develop policies and practices that support healthy, sustainable and equitable food systems. Our projects are designed to have a concrete impact at a local level and to empower and inspire others by showing that, yes, a better food future is possible.

Workplace Health, Safety & Wellbeing

Sustain is committed to providing a safe working environment and enhancing the well-being of the Urban Farm Network community. Staff and volunteers are responsible for each other's safety and wellbeing, including their own. They actively participate in OHS consultation processes, comply with safe work instructions or procedures, and identify and report hazards, incidents and 'near misses'.

Role Summary

The Community Farmer (parental leave position) will support the ongoing development of Sustain's Urban Farm Network. This Network comprises the three sites for which Sustain is responsible, namely the Oakhill Food Justice Farm in Preston, the Melbourne Food Hub urban farm site in Alphington, and the Bundoora Park farm site

Our goals for all sites are that they:

- are welcoming and inclusive spaces for all members of the community,
- enable the production and distribution of healthy fresh food, especially for those who need it most,
- provide multiple opportunities to engage and educate the wider community about the benefits of urban food production and community food systems, with a particular focus on social justice, diversity, inclusion and First Nations sovereignty and custodianship, and

- are generating revenue so that the Network can work towards being more independently financially self-sustaining, with a particular focus on corporate volunteering and (over time) workplace giving and school education programs.

The Community Farmer will work within a very small team facilitating and supporting Sustain's Food Justice Farm programs. These include running volunteer sessions across Oakhill and Bundoora farms, supporting and facilitating Corporate Volunteering and co-facilitating Food Justice Internships and various events and workshops. This role will be 0.4 FTE (2 days or flexible across multiples, including some Saturdays).

Key Responsibilities

- Running and supervising gardening/farming volunteer group sessions across 2 sites (Oakhill + Bundoora) such as planting, harvesting, irrigation, pest control, composting, site maintenance and development
- Corporate Volunteering Program support and facilitation (facilitating group sessions on our farm sites, sharing administration tasks, organising catering, OH&S responsibilities, inventory, stakeholder communications)
- Running workshops and events as needed, such as Oakhill's 3rd Birthday Party
- Participation in program planning, development and implementation
- Co-facilitating youth food justice internships and First Nations food justice internships
- Support volunteers to have a sense of shared ownership of the space and have an enjoyable, participatory and meaningful experience whilst on site.
- Support the recruitment, induction and other administration of volunteers.
- Ensure that all visitors and volunteers have adequate training and are familiar with sustainable and regenerative edible gardening principles and values, as well as hygiene and OHS standards.
- Supporting implementation of projects and grant deliverables
- Engage in relevant data capture and recording for monitoring and evaluation, and impact measurement purposes.

Key Selection Criteria

Essential

1. A sound knowledge of horticultural practices and experience, including working with Indigenous Food and Fibres and or/market gardening/farming practices
2. Experience in managing diverse group dynamics with people across many cultures, genders, religions, abilities and ages.
3. Ability to manage physically demanding tasks and work outside for long periods in all weather conditions
4. Able to deliver complex instructions in accessible ways to diverse groups of people.

5. Able to prioritise different workloads and needs of people and places.
6. Excellent communication skills with various communities, teams and individuals
7. Well-developed organisation skills.
8. Understanding and commitment to facilitating a welcoming, inclusive and safe space and culture for volunteers of all abilities, cultures, genders and sexualities, and takes an antiracist and intersectional approach to their work.
9. A passion for empowering and educating communities through growing and sharing food.
10. Reasonable familiarity with IT software (standard office, Asana, Slack, etc).
11. Working with Children check.

Desirable

1. Demonstrated experience in adapting to seasonal needs of urban farms/natural landscapes, such as seasonal planting of crops, irrigation, soil protection, composting and natural resource management.
2. Ability to respond to changing working demands of a dynamic environment.
3. Grant-writing / grant acquittal experience
4. Experience developing community relationships and/or managing community projects.
5. Familiarity with / experiencing working in the not-for-profit sector
6. Experience with monitoring and evaluation
7. Experience building tables, forms, interfaces and automations in Airtable (or similar software)

Employment Conditions

Contract: Part time 7-month contract (0.4 FTE). Possibility of contract extension and increase in FTE allocation subject to performance and availability of funding (3-month probationary period). Salary packaging up to \$15,900 pa for general living expenses.

Hours: To be negotiated and align with work patterns of key team members.

Hourly rate: \$35.00/hour plus super

Places of work: Oakhill Food Justice Farm, 233 Tyler St, Preston (Primary) / From home

To apply

Please send your CV with a cover letter explaining how you meet the selection criteria and your interest in this role to Jemma Stefanou, Community Farmer, Sustain: The Australian Food Network, jemma.stefanou@sustain.org.au, by 3rd September 2024.