Position Description

Job Title: **Play Systems Advisor**

Location: **Counties Manukau**

Background

Auckland is a complex multi-cultural environment with many challenges, but also unparalleled opportunities to increase and sustain participation in regard to our target groups-children (tamariki) and young people (rangatahi) 5-18 years, particularly within low socio-economic areas; girls and young women aged 10-18 years; Māori, Indian, Samoan and Chinese ethnicities, in play, physical education, active recreation, and sport. This has led to the establishment of the strategic response known as The Auckland Approach to Community Sport, which contributes to Aktive's vision of Auckland being the world's most active city.

Te Whai Kori A Regional Play Framework for Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland - has been developed to coordinate effort towards providing better quality access, breadth and depth of play opportunities and environments across Tāmaki Makaurau for young people 5-18 years (tamariki and rangatahi). We know our tamariki and rangatahi want to play, know how to play but sadly they aren't playing as much as they could be - particularly those who are missing out in high deprivation communities.

By ensuring the conditions for play of time, space and permission are embedded at all levels of society - across homes, neighbourhoods, schools and wider urban systems – we can contribute to making play accessible and inclusive, and championing every child's right to play.

Job Purpose

The purpose of the **Play Systems Advisor** is to first and foremost be a champion for play, and to take a systems-based view of the local play systems (targeting communities where there are tamariki who are more likely to be missing out on quality play opportunities) and coordinating the many parts, elements, and relationships to lead to the creation of new actions, messaging and infrastructure.

The Play Systems Advisor does not deliver opportunities, but creates change for more time, space and permission for play through scalable, system-level experiments that are locally relevant. We are looking for people who understand how to engage with tamariki within primary and intermediate schools to ensure they have access and opportunities to participate in and co-design quality play environments that meet their diverse needs. The successful applicant with be a master at building relationships and connecting primary and intermediate schools / kura Māori and community stakeholders, including local boards, to work together to support more young people to play.

Note: play refers to any physical activity that is naturally motivated and freely chosen and may or may not involve equipment or other people, making noise, getting dirty, creating a mess and being out of the direct view of adults.

Key accountabilities

The following gives an overview of the accountabilities with the position. They are not however intended to be an exhaustive list.

- Ensure the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles of Partnership, Protection, and Participation are acknowledged and reflected in the implementation of all work
- Understand what is currently happening within the local community surrounding each school – in terms of what is currently available, the barriers and the opportunities; and work to form collaborative partnerships that allow tamariki to experience quality play opportunities
- Work with tamariki within primary and intermediate schools to co-design and implement play initiatives that meet their needs
- Promote and support primary and intermediate schools, local boards and community organisations to access Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa funding
- Support the capturing of insights and sharing of relevant case studies and good practice examples to ensure more tamariki and those who work with them, are inspired by great practice.
- Utilise insights and researched practices to influence primary and intermediate schools and key stakeholders who influence play provision (e.g. local boards, community organisations) to implement relevant changes or establish new play innovations to promote play opportunities that are tamariki centred
- Participate in and contribute to play connectivity and professional development opportunities
- Ensure internal and external reporting requirements for active recreation are completed in-line with organisational and stakeholder expectations

Other:

- Collaborate with relevant community sport staff and maintain strong working relationships between partner teams working in local community settings (for example clubs, schools, communities of activities)
- Ensure the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles of Partnership, Protection and Participation are acknowledged and reflected in the implementation of all work

Relationships

Internal

- General Manager
- Schools & Kura Manager
- Healthy Active Learning Team
- Community Sport personnel

External

- Aktive Manager, Sport
- Aktive Sector Support Advisor
- Sport New Zealand personnel
- Auckland Council personnel
- Clubs and schools / kura
- Disability and inclusion organisations
- Safeguarding providers
- Parents
- Coaches
- Teachers
- Other providers

Person Specifications

This influencing role requires an in-depth understanding of positive child development, knowledge of the education sector, and the role of play as a contributor to wellbeing. You will have previous experience working with tamariki and the proven ability to work collaboratively with other organisations to build their support and capability in the area of play for tamariki.

Experience and Knowledge

- A passion for working with and for tamariki
- Knowledge and understanding of the concept of play
- A strong understanding of how physical activity can improve wellbeing outcomes for tamariki and whānau
- Knowledge and experience of working with primary and intermediate schools and education providers
- Experienced in influencing change in attitudes, processes and behaviours, and leading change
- Experience in planning, managing, and prioritizing multiple and competing tasks and projects to meet deadlines and produce quality results
- Cultural awareness and commitment to working with and improving access for tangata whenua
- An understanding of the Sport New Zealand play development process and principles and UNROC Article 31 – Childs Right to Play and General Comment 17
- Working knowledge and experience of local authorities, especially areas of planning, policy or delivery of play environments

Desirable

- A degree or equivalent in sport & recreation / physical education

Skills and Attributes:

- Knowledge of, and commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi – Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Māori responsiveness
- Act with honesty and integrity at all times
- Work as part of a high performing team, with a commitment to achieve results for, and with others
- An ability to work autonomously within a high trust environment
- Customer-centric with a “can do” attitude and the ability to bring things in to land in a timely manner
- Good problem analysis and problem-solving skills and an ability to “think outside the box”
- An ability to relate to people at all levels including community organisations and chairs
- Strong communicator across multiple settings and platforms (in person, small groups, online etc)
- Uses whanaungatanga to guide practices with others
- An ability to influence attitudes and behaviours
- Commitment to continuous learning and innovation
- Resilient and able to cope under pressure
- Technology literate