

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE:	Research Assistant
DIVISION / SECTION:	Global & Tropical Health
SUPERVISOR:	Senior Principal Research Fellow
CLASSIFICATION LEVEL:	Academic Level A
SALARY RANGE:	\$45.90/hr to \$60.43/hr
STATUS (FTE):	Casual
NO. OF POSITIONS REPORTING DIRECTLY:	0
NO. OF POSITIONS REPORTING INDIRECTLY:	0

ABOUT MENZIES:

As one of Australia's leading medical research institutes dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of Indigenous Australians, and a leader in global and tropical research into life-threatening illnesses, Menzies School of Health Research continues to translate its research into effective partnerships and programs in communities across Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

SUMMARY OF POSITION:

The Research Assistant will contribute to the project "Improving cultural safety in health delivery at Royal Darwin Hospital: piloting and evaluating an Aboriginal Health Practitioner role in the Department of Medicine". This study evaluates the effect of the incorporation of an Aboriginal Health Practitioner into General Medical teams at Royal Darwin Hospital. Aboriginal Health Practitioners have not previously been included in the delivery of care within the general medical teams at Royal Darwin Hospital. Since late 2020, an Aboriginal Health Practitioner has been allocated to the Division of Medicine. Their role is to accompany different medical teams during their intake ward rounds to see newly hospitalised inpatients. The Aboriginal Health Practitioner responds to specific cultural needs for Aboriginal patients, supports health literacy, logistics and appropriate referrals (e.g. to the Aboriginal Liaison Officer or Aboriginal Interpreter), advises the medical team on cultural matters and helps to provide an interface with primary care. The goal of this model of care is to improve Aboriginal cultural safety and appropriateness of medical care, improve patient experience of care, and upskill healthcare providers in their knowledge of Aboriginal cultural matters.

We are seeking a Research Assistant to conduct interviews with patients and healthcare providers, about their experience of care delivered with an Aboriginal Health Practitioner, compared to experiences which have not included an Aboriginal Health Practitioner. Quantitative data on outcomes of care (particularly, whether patients who had access to the Aboriginal Health Practitioner took their own leave from hospital or not) will provide another assessment of impact. The Research Assistant will work with members of the study team to organise and analyse the data.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Work effectively with Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of the study team to undertake qualitative data collection and analysis. Specifically:
 - a. Conduct in-depth interviews with up to 10 patients (working with an Aboriginal interpreter where needed) and with up to 10 healthcare providers;

- b. Arrange transcription and store data in an appropriate format aligned with Menzies data security policies;
 - c. Undertake the initial thematic analyses according to the methodological approach described in the study protocol.
2. Work closely, effectively and collaboratively with Aboriginal interpreters and Aboriginal researchers.
3. Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with the study investigator team.
4. Assist the drafting of manuscripts and reports arising from the project.
5. Ensure data is collected and stored appropriately and in accordance with ethical and cultural guidelines.
6. Any other tasks as reasonably required by the supervisor, manager and/or Director.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

Essential:

1. Completion of four years relevant tertiary study or equivalent qualifications and research experience.
2. Experience in undertaking qualitative research.
3. Demonstrated ability to work independently under limited supervision.
4. Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal societies, cultures and health needs.
5. Demonstrated experience of effectively working with Aboriginal people and people from diverse cultures.
6. Demonstrated experience in data collection and maintaining data quality and confidentiality.
7. Demonstrated flexibility, resourcefulness and excellent oral and written communication skills.
8. Willingness and ability to obtain and maintain a current Working with Children Clearance (Ochre Card)
9. Willingness to comply with the Top End Health Services Staff Immunisation Policy and provide proof of compliance (e.g. through serology).
10. An understanding and awareness of relevant Workplace Health and Safety as well as Equal Opportunity principles and legislation along with a commitment to maintaining a healthy and safe workplace for all Menzies staff, students, volunteers and visitors.

Desirable:

1. Medical, nursing or allied health qualification.
2. Ability to effectively work across multiple organisations.

Approved by: Menzies Human Resources

Date: 24 March 2021