

JOB DESCRIPTION

TELETHON KIDS INSTITUTE



Why is this Job Description being written?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Position <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement Position <input type="checkbox"/> Position re-designed <input type="checkbox"/> Position not previously described		
POSITION DETAILS:		Position Title: RESEARCH OFFICER (EPIDEMIOLOGIST)		
Division:	Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing	Department:	Child Mortality Research program	
Position reports to: (role)	Manager, Child Mortality Research program			
Location: <i>include all possible locations</i>	100 Roberts Road Subiaco			
POSITION PURPOSE: In one or two sentences briefly summarise the overall purpose of this role, i.e. broadly, what this role does and why				
<p>This successful applicant(s) will play an important role in a newly-funded 4-year project that aims to examine pathways to avoidable and unexplained deaths in the early lifecourse, as part of a broader program of work within the Child Mortality Research program. The project is an epidemiological study and will draw on novel population-level linked health and social services data to identify and quantify the population-level impact of risks to early life mortality and preventable pathways in both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations. This new knowledge is designed to inform universal strategies to prevent stillbirth and child deaths, and targeted interventions for the benefit of Aboriginal and other populations.</p> <p>This position would suit a talented early career researcher with a background in epidemiology and/or population health research.</p>				
KEY RESPONSIBILITY AREAS <i>(Please list in order of importance)</i>				
Key Position Accountabilities What are the main areas for which the position is accountable	% of Total Role	Inputs: What are the key activities or tasks to be carried out?	Outputs: What are the expected end results?	Measures: How it is measured

Research	75%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake epidemiological research within the Child Mortality Research program, including data analysis, manuscript preparation and submission • Contribute to the planning and design of innovative studies • Undertake data integrity, quality assurance and editing tasks to ensure study data is of high quality. • Support the development of innovative, high quality research proposals to external funding organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-designed studies; accurately collected data • Sound statistical and other analyses that maximise potential of the data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervisor feedback and performance evaluation • High quality peer reviewed publications
Research administration	15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Project Manager to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensure research activities undertaken in a timely manner – Research processes and protocols are robust • Assist in the preparation of applications for data, including linked administrative health data held by the WA Data Linkage System • Assist in the preparation of ethics committee submissions, amendments and reports, and ensure appropriate scientific rigour in adhering to ethics protocols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research completed to the satisfaction of stakeholders and in compliance with NHMRC and other governance • Frequent communication with supervisor, collaborators, staff and students • Timely ethics submissions • Well-managed data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervisor feedback and performance evaluation • Submission of timely, appropriate paperwork • Continuation of ethical approvals (no breaks; no breaches)
Engagement and communication	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the development of academic journal articles, research reports and publicity material resulting from research outcomes • Create and deliver scientific and lay presentations at research meetings, conferences and Institute and other forums • Work cohesively and collaboratively with all internal and external project stakeholders • Support the coordination of functions, consultations and meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer reviewed publications in relevant journals • Greater understanding in both the lay and research communities of early mortality issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and quality of publications • Evidence of translation of findings into policy/practice • Number and effectiveness of communications (e.g. written articles, verbal presentations, media)

ESSENTIAL SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE:

Qualifications: what are the minimum educational, technical or professional qualifications required to competently perform role

- Recognised doctoral or masters qualification relevant to the health and / or social science field

<p>Skills, Knowledge & Experience:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated experience in collecting, analysing and interpreting a range of quantitative data • Interest in Aboriginal child health research • Robust track record of publishing and presenting research results, relative to opportunity • Proficiency in one or more statistical packages • Highly developed oral and written communication skills • Demonstrated ability to work as a member of a team
<p>DESIRABLE SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE:</p>	
<p>Qualifications: what are the minimum educational, technical or professional qualifications required to competently perform role</p>	
<p>Skills, Knowledge & Experience:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in the analysis and interpretation of complex and/or large data sets, including linked administrative health data • Experience undertaking research in a cross-cultural context
<p>SCOPE:</p>	
<p>Financial accountability: Does this role have accountability for a budget?</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No 	
<p>People responsibility: Does this role have any direct reports or indirect reports (through direct reports)? No</p>	
<p>No. of direct reports</p>	<p>No. of indirect reports</p>

ORGANISATIONAL CHART: (please complete using position titles or insert diagram below)

Next level of supervision

Head, Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing

Immediate level of supervision

Manager, Child Mortality Research program

Other roles reporting to immediate supervisor

Epidemiological Research Fellow

Direct reports (role x no.)

Epidemiological Research Officer

Epidemiological Research Officer

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: is there any additional information that needs to be understood to explain this role?

This project stems from the knowledge that there continues to be unacceptable numbers of avoidable (preventable and treatable) deaths in early life in Australia—including stillbirths and deaths in the first five years of life—with inequalities across regions and cultural groups. Stillbirth in Australia, for example, occurs at more than twice the rate of many other high-income countries, and suggests that considerable improvements can be made in reducing these tragic deaths. The extant evidence indicates that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, disadvantaged and remotely located populations are particularly at-risk of dying in the prenatal period and in early childhood. Many stillbirths and some childhood deaths remain unexplained, and need to be addressed through improvements in data collection, investigation, and classification, and (importantly) with a better understanding of causal pathways.