

Health Practitioner Research Development Program 2019

Centre for Rural Health: Health Practitioner Research Development Program 2019

Expressions of interest are invited for project-based opportunities linked to Centre for Rural Health research. This is an opportunity for health professionals with an interest in research to build their skills, experience and track record through hands-on involvement over 140 hours, with projects commencing in early-mid 2019.

Selection Criteria:

- Any university degree in an area related to health care.
- An understanding of, and experience in health care.
- A demonstrated interest in research.
- A good fit between the applicant's skills and interests and the available projects.

The exact scope of the training will depend on the particular project but will entail a skill required to undertake research such as formulating research design, data collection, data analysis, and reporting.

For questions or queries related to the program, please contact Dr Heather Bridgman: Heather.Bridgman@utas.edu.au (03) 6324 4048. For questions related to the project details specifically, please contact the respective project supervisors.

How to apply:

After reviewing the projects on offer (in the following pages of this form), applicants are invited to submit an expression of interest, including a current CV (detailing your relevant education and work experience to date) and a brief covering letter (addressing the selection criteria and nominating your preferred project(s)). This should be submitted via the online form <https://redcap.utas.edu.au/surveys/?s=7D9TXMJ8W4>

Applications close Friday 10th May 2019.

Project Supervisor: Dr Kehinde Obamiro, kehinde.obamiro@utas.edu.au, ph: 63243830

Project Title: Recruitment and Retention of Healthcare Professionals in Rural and Remote Australia: A Scoping Review

Project Background (2-3 sentences):

In Australia, about 29% of the population live in rural or remote areas. Although oversupply has been reported across different groups of healthcare professionals, an undersupply has been consistently reported in rural and remote communities. Despite a growing body of research investigating possible reasons for and solutions to the problem, the challenge persists, especially in areas of high geographical remoteness and isolation.

Tasks (specify the task and outcome the practitioner will learn):

- Assist with review of full papers for eligibility
- Extract data from each study and enter onto a spread sheet
- Help develop and then assign data codes to selected variables
- Undertake preliminary (descriptive) analysis and categorisation of
(i) factors (ii) strategies associated with rural health workforce recruitment and retention

Project Location: Centre for Rural Health, Newnham Campus, University of Tasmania

Project Supervisor: Dr Ha Hoang, thi.hoang@utas.edu.au, ph: 6324 4031

Project Title: Skill Mix in The Oral Health Workforce: A Systematic Review

Project Background:

“Skill-mix” refers to a model of care where the whole of the clinical team is utilised in delivering service activity. While skill-mix approaches have been found to work well in general medicine, they have not been formally evaluated in dentistry. The study will conduct a systematic review of literature on the use of "skill-mix" in the oral health workforce and discuss about workforce re-design in the rural and remote oral health workforce.

Tasks:

The practitioner will learn to how to conduct a systematic review of literature including formulating review questions, using systematic and reproducible methods to identify, select and critically appraise all relevant research, and analyse data from the studies that are included in the review.

Project Location: Launceston

Project Supervisor: Pauline Marsh, pauline.marsh@utas.edu.au, ph: 6226 6905

Project Title: Home Care Packages Program: Issues for a Rural Workforce in Tasmania

Project Background:

The Australian Government's Home Care Packages Program (HCPP) aims to help people to remain living independently at home for as long as possible by facilitating in-home nursing, allied health, personal care and various other types of assistance. This scheme is projected to increase in the next few years, as the favourite approach to aged care provision. In rural areas, there is a well-documented health and community workforce shortage – the trained professionals who will deliver the HCPP are hard to come by. This project explores the issues pertaining to the roll out of the HCPP for rural communities and the rural workforce.

Tasks :

- **Ethics Application:** The first stage of the project will require an ethics application. The practitioner will learn the skills associated with designing and implementing rigorous ethical qualitative research.
- **Conducting and analysing in-depth interviews with rural workforce delivering home care packages and people receiving home care packages:** The second stage will involve interviewing a small number of people delivering and receiving the HCPs in one select rural area of Southern Tasmania. The practitioner will learn how to conduct in-depth interviews and the process of thematic analysis.

Project Location: Southern Tasmania

Project Supervisor: Dr Heather Bridgman, heather.bridgman@utas.edu.au, ph: 6324 4048

Project Title: Rural Youth Mental Health Service Access: Perspectives of Service Providers And Parents.

Project Background:

There is limited literature available on the experience of young rural people accessing mental health services. Interviews were recently undertaken with rural young people, service providers and parents about barriers and enablers of mental health service access. This project focuses on the perspectives of service providers and parents.

Tasks:

- Qualitative analysis techniques (coding, categorising)
- Development of thematic framework
- Data interpretation
- Preparation of manuscript for publication

Project Location: Launceston

Project Supervisor: Dr Jon Mond; jon.mond@utas.edu.au, ph: 6324 4006

Project Title: Capacity Building for Rural Health Workforce Program Evaluation.

Project Background: In our ongoing work on mental health promotion and suicide prevention program evaluation, our team has identified a pressing need among the rural health workforce, i.e., among health professionals and administrators working for government and non-government organisations, for basic training in program evaluation. We propose to develop a half- or perhaps full-day workshop designed to provide this training and would like to engage a HPRDP scholar to assist in aspects of this process.

Tasks:

Tasks to be undertaken, under the supervision of the team, will include:

- 1) Establishing which aspects of program evaluation training are most urgently needed among local health workforce members by means of interviews and/or focus groups.
- 2) Using this information, in conjunction with additional information provided by the project team, to determine the optimal length and format of the proposed workshop(s) and prepare an initial draft of the proposed schedule.

Research-related skills that will be gained include:

- 1) Experience in the design, conduct and analysis of data from qualitative research.
- 2) Training in the key elements of the evaluation of local health promotion projects.

Project Location: Launceston