

Position Description

Position title: Research Fellow (Health Economics)

Date established: June 2020

Reports to: Manager, Decision Analytics

Direct reports: Nil

Employment status (full-time / part-time, length of the contract, FTE): full time, 12 months

Background

The Sax Institute is a leading Australian expert body in helping decision makers find and make best use of research to solve real-world health and social problems.

We connect individuals and organisations with research, we build research platforms that generate new knowledge for use in decision making, and we lead thinking and knowledge around how to ensure more research has a real-world impact.

We are a transformative organisation established to develop innovative ways of better connecting knowledge from research with those who can use it.

Division / Program Area – Decision Analytics, Evidence for Action

The Evidence for Action Division leads work on embedding the use of evidence in decision making. It develops and uses tools and services to assist decision makers to use evidence in their work, and researchers to work with policy to conduct policy relevant research.

The Sax Institute's Decision Analytics team uses simulation modelling and other analytical methods to develop adaptable decision support tools. These tools are developed in partnership with government departments, policy agencies and program planners in health and social sectors, providing them with a low-risk virtual environment to test potential impacts of different decisions before they are implemented in the real world.

Decision analytics applies a unique participatory approach to developing the simulation models. This allows for integration of qualitative real-world knowledge and priorities from a diverse range of stakeholders and quantitative inputs from best available data and published literature, enabling an investigation into the complex and dynamic nature of our most challenging health and social problems. In addition, a user-friendly interface is layered on the complex model and has the functionality to not only view model assumptions but also to change and test alternative assumptions and strategies, making it a true decision-support tool that. Our process and methodology aim to ensure the quality and transparency of the model, and to ultimately make the simulation decision-support tools *useful* and *usable*.

Purpose of position

The Research Fellow (Health Economics) will work with the Manager of Decision Analytics and other project personnel to lead the integration of economic evaluation into simulation models. The person will assist with the preparation of communication materials and academic outputs.

Key accountabilities

Key accountabilities	Performance expectations
Design economic evaluation component of dynamic simulation modelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active involvement in the stakeholder participatory process regarding model purpose(s), evaluation perspective(s) and value judgements. • Design the economic approach to align with policy decision perspectives (e.g. Health, Treasury) for integration into dynamic simulation models
Identify and analyse economic data relevant for the economic evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collation (e.g. service costs, interventions costs, valuation of outcomes) completed on time to input into models • Demonstrated awareness of, and ability to critique, a range of data sources • Economic valuation of outcomes (e.g. utilities, productivity) and analysis (e.g. cost effectiveness, cost benefit)
Contribute to the dissemination of the work of Decision Analytics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish and present findings from the program of research • Contribute to communication materials and academic publications to raise the profile of Decision Analytics.
Contribute to tenders and applications for new work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the development of research protocols and grant applications, and government tenders.

Qualifications, Skills, Experience and Personal Qualities - Selection Criteria

Essential

To be successful the research officer should demonstrate the following technical and behavioural competencies:

- A PhD or equivalent research experience in health economics
- Sound knowledge and understanding of methodologies used in economic evaluation
- Proficiency in collating and analysing data used in health economics
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

Desirable

- Comfortable with delivering presentations and facilitating workshops
- Experience and understanding of dynamic simulation models

Challenges

- To quickly learn and apply the innovative methodologies and processes used by Decision Analytics

Key stakeholders and relationships

- The Research Fellow will be part of core project groups that consist of simulation modellers, a project lead, a research officer, and may include representatives from the commissioning government agency
- The Research Fellow will support the integration of economic evaluation into simulation models

Key meetings/committees/working groups (that this role must be a part of)

The Research Fellow will participate in relevant meetings and workshops during the delivery of the simulation modelling project