

Position Description

Position title:	Postdoctoral Research Fellow – Aboriginal Health
Date established:	February 2021
Reports to:	Study Director, SEARCH
Direct reports:	None
Employment status:	Part time (0.8 FTE); 24-month contract

Background

The Sax Institute is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that helps decision makers find and make the 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 not a research institute but rather, a transformative organisation established to develop innovative ways of better connecting knowledge from research with those who can use it.

About Aboriginal health research at the Sax Institute

The Sax Institute has worked in partnership with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs) in NSW for more than a decade conducting a program of research that aligns with ACCHS priorities. Our work involves ACCHS and government partners, as well as multidisciplinary teams of researchers. Several of the research projects conducted by the Aboriginal health team focus on social and emotional wellbeing and mental health. We are looking for a Postdoctoral Research Fellow to manage two new projects in this space: 1) testing ACCHS-nominated strategies for supporting the social and emotional wellbeing of their staff throughout the COVID 19 Pandemic and 2) evaluating an Aboriginal cultural adaptation of an early intervention program for social and emotional wellbeing that is delivered through primary-schools.

Purpose of position

The Postdoctoral Research Fellow will work with the Aboriginal health team and Study Investigators to design and implement project 1 (above) in partnership with 5 ACCHSs in NSW. They will have primary responsibility for drafting study protocols and methods, obtaining appropriate ethics clearances and overseeing the co-ordination of all aspects of the study. They will play a key role in data analysis and reporting and will have the opportunity to act as lead author on publications emerging from the study and to participate in the development of funding applications. The Postdoctoral research fellow will also oversee the coordination of the early intervention social and emotional wellbeing program. They will be responsible for contributing to study design and processes, leading the qualitative data analysis and drafting presentations and reports to funding agencies.

The position requires: strong research and evaluation skills (particularly qualitative); a strong understanding of ethical research and methodological options; excellent communication skills,

flexibility; and the capacity to work with a wide range of people with diverse skills and experiences including ACCHS and government partners and leading researchers.

Key accountabilities

- Drafting study protocols, tools and methods
- Overseeing the implementation of relevant projects including co-ordination of intervention delivery and associated qualitative and quantitative data collection
- Leading and conducting qualitative interviews and focus groups as required (generally in partnership with Aboriginal researchers)
- Preparing ethics applications and reports, reports to partners and funders and annual stakeholder reports
- Preparing data summaries for ACCHSs partners and communication resources (findings briefs, infographics) from data generated for use by ACCHSs and policy partners
- Drafting papers and presentations arising from the research and supporting the team in delivering the findings in stakeholder meetings.

Qualifications, Skills, Experience and Personal Qualities - Selection Criteria

- We are looking for a dynamic and dedicated Postdoctoral Research Fellow to fill this position who has the following experience and current skill set:
- A PhD in public or population health, health services research, psychology or epidemiology or relevant Master's degree with strong interest and experience in Aboriginal health research
- Excellent organisational skills and experience in managing projects, with a demonstrated capacity to manage complexities and diverse stakeholders
- Demonstrated ability to develop and implement initiatives
- Demonstrated experience with writing research protocols, reports, findings' briefs, ethics applications and academic manuscripts
- Excellent interpersonal skills and proven ability to work as part of a team, and build successful working relationships with a variety of people and to deliver on commitments
- Aboriginality would be highly regarded but is not essential.

Key stakeholders and relationships

- AH&MRC, participating Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs) at Campbelltown, Wagga Wagga, Orange, Newcastle, Walgett, Brewarrina, Centre for Aboriginal Health (NSW Health), Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence (NSW Health), Office of Health and Medical Research (NSW Health), Department of education (NSW Government), South West Sydney LHD, Murrumbidgee LHD, Western NSW LHD

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

- COVID-19 project investigator team meeting; COVID-19 project policy and practice committee; Got it! Evaluation advisory committee meeting