

Position Description

Position title:	Project Officer – Aboriginal Health
Date established:	October 2023
Reports to:	Director, Aboriginal Health Research
Direct reports:	None
Employment status:	0.8 FTE; 24 month contract

Background

The Sax Institute is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that improves health and wellbeing by driving better use of evidence in policies, programs and services.

The Institute has an international reputation as an Evidence Specialist, and over 20 years' experience in translating research findings into policy drawing on our own expertise as well as that of our more than 60 member organisations. We work with governments, health organisations, research organisations and a network of experts nationwide to analyse policy problems and find the best evidence-based solutions.

Our office is based in Glebe; however, we offer great flexible and remote working arrangements. We come to the office for a purpose – to connect and to collaborate – with flexibility to choose your location of work outside these times.

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 the past 20 years, conducting a program of research that is determined by ACCHS identified priorities. Our work involves ACCHSs and government partners, as well as multidisciplinary teams of researchers. The program has evolved an integrated approach to using data to generate evidence on health needs. The Study of Environment on Aboriginal Resilience and Child Health (SEARCH) has delivered increased knowledge about health and its determinants in Aboriginal children and young people and strengthened services and new programs to improve Aboriginal health. More recently, the program has expanded to focus on other areas of Aboriginal health including healthy ageing, patient care, food security, evaluation of Aboriginal-led programs and social and emotional wellbeing of ACCHS staff during the COVID 19 pandemic. We will further develop research that will address Closing the Gap priorities.

Purpose of position

The primary purpose of this role is to undertake a range of activities, both research and administrative to support the development and delivery of projects in the Aboriginal Health Program. This role is responsible for coordinating/assisting with data collection, managing relationships with partner ACCHSs and AH&MRC, assisting with ethics processes and dissemination of research findings.

We are looking for a committed and driven Project Officer who can show initiative and innovation, and ensure Aboriginal culture is incorporated into the research conducted.

Key accountabilities are as follows:

Key accountabilities	Performance expectations
Undertake specific research activity as part of the broader research agenda of the program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of Yarning sessions (interviews and workshops) with Aboriginal community members and staff at partner ACCHS and other stakeholders. • Assist with data entry, analysis, audits and producing high quality research data • Assist in training sessions to build capacity of ACCHS staff in conducting research and evaluation of programs. • Liaise with Aboriginal communities and assist the program staff to develop tools and resources for healthy ageing and cancer prevention
Build relationships and manage communications with stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain effective and productive relationships with partner ACCHSs, AH&MRC and stakeholders (e.g., Poche Centre). • Schedule regular meetings with ACCHSs and AH&MRC
Assist in the preparation of ethics submissions and manage the ethics applications approval process; Ensures that ethics guidelines and standards are met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage data integrity, ensuring confidentiality and the safe storage of records and files (electronic and hard copy). • Support the submission of ethics applications (including responding to ethics committees), manuscripts, reports, and presentations to AH&MRC ethics committee for approval and manage communications
Assist with meetings (investigator and CEO meetings), events, workshops and conferences coordinated by the program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule regular face-to-face or online investigator group and Aboriginal Advisory Group meetings • Assist in preparation of agenda papers and project findings to track progress of research. • Prepare summary of meeting discussions
Assist with the dissemination of Aboriginal health research findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in the preparation of findings briefs and power point presentations. • Coordinate and participate in meetings and forums with ACCHSs and other partners to disseminate findings. • Assist with obtaining approval of research outputs (manuscripts, reports, presentation) from partner ACCHSs

Qualifications, Skills, Experience and Personal Qualities - Selection Criteria

- Degree in health, public health, or other related field with relevant experience in Aboriginal health
- Demonstrated ability and experience in engaging with Aboriginal people and communities, and an understanding and sensitivity to Aboriginal culture and issues affecting Aboriginal people.
- Experience in Aboriginal health research and using decolonising research methods.
- Willingness to learn about Aboriginal health research, implementation, and evaluation.
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a small team, taking initiative and exercising sound judgement in resolving matters that may arise as part of normal daily work.

- Demonstrated effectiveness in communication (face to face, telephone and email).
- Demonstrated organisational and time management skills with attention to detail.
- Proficient in MSOffice suite, in particular, Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.
- Current NSW driver's license (desirable)
- Aboriginality is essential.

Key stakeholders and relationships

- AH&MRC, participating Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs) at Campbelltown, Wagga Wagga, Orange and Walgett, Brewarrina, Bourke and government agencies.

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

- Investigator and Aboriginal Advisory Groups; Community of Practice groups; Inter-Disciplinary Hubs