

## Position Description

### Research only - Research Officer

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<b>Position Nos:</b>	50142856
<b>Department:</b>	John Richards Centre
<b>School:</b>	Nursing and Midwifery
<b>Campus/Location:</b>	Bendigo
<b>Classification:</b>	Level A – Research Officer
<b>Employment Type:</b>	Full time
<b>Position Supervisor:</b>	Dr Clare Wilding
<b>Number:</b>	00094315
<b>Other Benefits:</b>	<a href="http://www.latrobe.edu.au/jobs/working/benefits">http://www.latrobe.edu.au/jobs/working/benefits</a>

Further information about:

La Trobe University - <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/about>

School of Nursing and Midwifery – <http://latrobe.edu.au/>

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#### For enquiries only contact:

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# Position Description

## Level A - Research Officer

A Level A research only academic is expected to contribute towards the research effort of the institution and to develop their research expertise through the pursuit of defined projects relevant to the particular field of research.

### Position Context

In consultation with older people in rural communities and other stakeholders, the John Richards Centre (JRC) is undertaking a program of research into rural ageing and aged care that improves well-being through:

- Informing innovative rural ageing policy;
- Exploring innovative models of service provision for older people in rural communities that enhance their capacity to be resilient and self-determining;
- Developing and testing effective rural workforce planning strategies; and informing education.

As of January 2018, JRC will be part of La Trobe Rural Health School. JRC research programs are interdisciplinary and encompass research on health services, healthy ageing, age-friendly communities, workforce and diversity in rural communities.

In this position you will support the work of the VERILY (Virtual Dementia Friendly Rural Communities) project. VERILY is a two-year study that is supported by an Australian Government Dementia and Aged Care Services grant. In this project, researchers at the John Richards Centre, La Trobe University, Wodonga, is working with partners in Victoria, South Australia, and New South Wales, to trial an innovative approach to supporting people who care for someone with dementia in a rural community. A/Prof Irene Blackberry is the principal investigator and Dr Clare Wilding is the project manager. You will be supporting the VERILY project over 18 months (January 2018-June 2019) under the supervision of Dr Wilding.

There are two main parts to the VERILY project:

1. Implement strategies to improve support of carers and communities
2. Evaluate the project and its impact

VERILY will be implemented in 12 rural communities (8 in Victoria, 2 in New South Wales, and 2 in South Australia). VERILY is comprised of three key initiatives (but there is flexibility to include others, based on each local community's needs):

1. Volunteer-led peer support and mentoring "hubs" to assist older people to use online information and communication technology
2. A website and smartphone app to help carers navigate health and aged care services and to increase support and connectivity between carers and with service providers
3. Carer peer support groups that meet by video-conference

VERILY will be evaluated in four ways:

1. *Quantitative evaluation* – a set of surveys to be completed by carers at 6 points in time in 2018
2. *Qualitative evaluation* – focus groups for volunteers and individual interviews for health and aged care services staff
3. *Process evaluation* – collecting records of the actions taken as part of the project, problems encountered and solutions developed

4. *Economic evaluation* - a health economist will calculate an estimate of the costs required to implement and run the VERILY activities and analyse these in relation to benefits observed.

You will work as part of a team of research assistants to support carers, volunteers, and community members to implement VERILY strategies in the rural communities. Working under direction, you will be involved in a range of data collection, analysis, and reporting activities.

This position will be based at the John Richards Centre into Ageing and Aged Care in Rural Communities at La Trobe University, Bendigo campus. The John Richards Centre (JRC) is supported by a local philanthropist, Mr John Richards OAM, with matched funding from both the Department of Health Victoria and La Trobe University. It was established in 2007 to lead research and innovation into rural ageing and aged care.

**Duties at this level may include:**

- Conduct high quality research activities under limited supervision, as part of a team.
- Develop research related material with appropriate guidance from more senior staff.
- Participate in professional activities including presentations at conferences and seminars in field of expertise.
- Attendance at meetings associated with research or the work of the John Richards Centre.
- Acquire and interpret research data and results. Run analyses and tests using specified and agreed techniques and models. Contribute to the development of techniques, models and methods.
- Contribute to and uphold a robust and ambitious research culture.
- Undertake administrative functions connected with the area of research.
- Support the development of other relevant research under direction of JRC Director.

**Key Selection Criteria**

- Completion of a Bachelor's degree in a health or community service discipline, and evidence of participation in higher level study relevant to discipline or professional area.
- Evidence of experience in research and evaluation and the ability to work effectively under limited supervision or independently.
- Demonstrated understanding and experience in qualitative and quantitative research methods.
- Evidence of experience in working with various range of technologies and softwares including smartphone apps, website navigation, statistical packages (SPSS/SAS/Stata/R), Endnote, NVivo.
- A record of contribution to publications, conference papers and/or reports, or professional or technical contributions which provide evidence of research potential.
- Effective oral and written communication skills, including the ability to interact effectively with people from a diverse range of backgrounds.
- Demonstrated ability to work as a member of a team in a cooperative and collegial manner.
- Demonstrated high level attention to detail, self-motivation, meeting timelines and personal management.
- Willingness to travel to conduct field research, including possession of a valid Driver's License and willingness to drive University vehicles.

**Other relevant information:**

- As this role involves working with vulnerable people, you will be required to complete a police check.

## La Trobe Cultural Qualities

Our cultural qualities underpin everything we do. As we work towards realising the strategic goals of the University we strive to work in a way which is aligned to our four cultural qualities:

- We are **Connected**: We connect to the world outside — the students and communities we serve, both locally and globally.
- We are **Innovative**: We tackle the big issues of our time to transform the lives of our students and society.
- We are **Accountable**: We strive for excellence in everything we do. We hold each other and ourselves to account, and work to the highest standard.
- We **Care**: We care about what we do and why we do it. We believe in the power of education and research to transform lives and global society. We care about being the difference in the lives of our students and communities.

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For Human Resource Use Only

Initials:              Date: