



# RESEARCH FELLOW – INDIGENOUS WATER

DEPARTMENT/UNIT	MSDI Water
FACULTY/DIVISION	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and Senior Vice-President (DVCR)
CLASSIFICATION	Level B
DESIGNATED CAMPUS OR LOCATION	Clayton campus

## ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

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Monash is a university of transformation, progress and optimism. Our people are our most valued asset, with our academics among the best in the world and our professional staff revolutionising the way we operate as an organisation. For more information about our University and our exciting future, please visit [www.monash.edu](http://www.monash.edu).

The **Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and Senior Vice-President (DVCR)** is responsible for the development, implementation and continuous improvement of the University's research vision within the changing landscape of higher education, ensuring delivery of accountabilities within the context of the University's strategic plan. Reporting to the President and Vice-Chancellor and as an integral member of the University's executive team, the DVCR further advances the University's research performance, diversifies research funding, oversees research infrastructure strategy, and fosters interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary areas of excellence, collaboration and innovation within Monash and with global research partners. Further information about the University's organisational and governance and structure is available at [www.monash.edu/about/structure](http://www.monash.edu/about/structure).

The **Pro Vice Chancellor (Indigenous)** leads the University's agenda around the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Framework, and **Heads** the **William Cooper Institute**, which provides a point of focus for Monash University's engagement in Indigenous scholarship, including overseeing all Indigenous activities University-wide, representing the University externally in Indigenous matters.

The William Cooper Institute connects research, learning and engagement for and about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities through the establishment of a 'hub-and-spoke' model of Indigenous leadership and participation across and within the University.

As a leading interdisciplinary research, education and impact organisation, **Monash Sustainable Development Institute (MSDI)** is advancing the wellbeing of people and planet, for current and future generations. Monash University has a wealth of sustainable development expertise across its ten faculties. MSDI engages across Monash to bring together applied and transdisciplinary researchers, practitioners and students to advance systems transformation for sustainable development; and provides a platform to create change through deep collaboration, working in close partnership with government, industry and communities to amplify our impact. MSDI is also host to the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Regional Centre. We offer forward-thinking study programs and courses that enable people and organisations to

engage with and respond to some of the biggest environmental, economic and social issues facing our world today. For more information, please visit [www.monash.edu/msdi](http://www.monash.edu/msdi).

**MSDI Water** is an expert group of researchers, knowledge brokers and influencers who bridge between research and action to drive system change in the Australian water sector and beyond. As a core business unit of MSDI, it acts as an integrating platform for water-related initiatives across MSDI and for interdisciplinary water research across Monash's ten faculties. MSDI Water looks for innovative, collaborative and impactful opportunities to drive more sustainable, resilient, productive and inclusive water systems. Our team combines robust research and analysis, research translation, clear and targeted engagement, and effective capability building to provide evidence, guidance and practical tools that help governments, businesses, NGOs and communities create better water outcomes. MSDI Water has a particular research interest in the water knowledge, values and rights of Indigenous peoples.

## POSITION PURPOSE

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A Level B research-only academic is expected to carry out independent and/or team research within the field in which they are appointed and to carry out activities to develop their research expertise relevant to the particular field of research.

The Research Fellow is responsible for undertaking engagement and research on topics related to Indigenous water knowledge, values and rights. A particular focus is anticipated to be on strengthening Indigenous sovereignty, water rights and peoples as part of water governance frameworks, and embracing Indigenous ways of knowing and being in our approach to planning and decision making to enhance the wellbeing of people and planet. In collaboration with the MSDI Water team, the Research Fellow will assist in identifying and developing new opportunities for water systems research and translation projects nationally and internationally. With the support of the William Cooper Institute and MSDI Water, the position will: foster relationships with Indigenous communities to support impactful Indigenous water research initiatives, and develop research funding proposals that are consistent with MSDI Water objectives. It will maintain and enhance the MSDI status as a leader in research and practice through dissemination of research insights to community, industry, government and academic audiences, including publication in high-quality journals. The position will support the development of practical methods and tools that help translate research insights into policy and practice at scale. Where relevant, the Research Fellow will also contribute to teaching efforts (either accredited or executive education) of Monash Sustainable Development Institute.

**Reporting Line:** The position reports to Chris Chesterfield (Professor, MSDI Water), with a dotted reporting line to the Jacinta Elston, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) and Head, William Cooper Institute

**Supervisory Responsibilities:** This position may provide direct supervision to Research Assistants and PhD candidates

**Financial Delegation:** Not applicable

**Budgetary Responsibilities:** Not applicable

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

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Specific duties required of a Level B research-only academic may include:

1. The conduct of research either as a member of a team or independently and the production of conference and seminar papers and publications from that research
2. Lead the development of opportunities for partnerships across a range of Indigenous communities and organisations in achieving MSDI Water program objectives
3. Supervision of research-support staff involved in the staff member's research

4. Guidance in the research effort of junior members of research-only Academic staff in their research area
5. Contribution to the preparation or, where appropriate, individual preparation of research proposal submissions to external funding bodies
6. Involvement in professional activities including, subject to availability of funds, attendance at conferences and seminars in the field of expertise
7. Administrative functions primarily connected with their area of research
8. Occasional contributions to the teaching program within the field of the staff member's research
9. Co-supervision or, where appropriate, supervision of major honours or postgraduate research projects within the field of the staff member's area of research
10. Attendance at meetings associated with research or the work of the organisational unit to which the research is connected and/or at departmental, school and/or faculty meetings and/or membership of a limited number of committees
11. Work closely within the team across the William Cooper Institute to manage, coordinate and compile strategies, actions and targets, and develop and track plans at a strategic level
12. Work closely within the broader MSDI team to strengthen MSDI's capability in foregrounding Aboriginal wisdom, engaging and collaborating with Indigenous communities, and conducting Indigenous-led research
13. Other duties as directed from time to time

## **KEY SELECTION CRITERIA**

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Only Indigenous Australians are eligible to apply as this position is exempt under the Special Measure Provision, Section 12 (1) of the Equal Opportunity Act 2011 (Vic)

### **Education/Qualifications**

1. The appointee will have:
  - A doctoral qualification in the relevant discipline area or equivalent qualifications or research experience.

### **Knowledge and Skills**

2. A demonstrated and highly competitive track record of research achievement, in an area relevant to Indigenous water knowledge, values or rights; including a solid track record of refereed research publications
3. The ability to work both independently in a research environment and as part of an interdisciplinary research team with a record of translating knowledge into practice
4. A record of relationships with First Nations People, industry, government and/or professional bodies and a proven track record of successfully navigating complex areas, especially advocacy, policy related to Indigenous water
5. Experience in successfully supervising, mentoring and coaching to support the development of research staff and/or a demonstrated trajectory of leadership capability
6. Experience in supervising and working with major honours or postgraduate students within the discipline
7. High level organisational skills, with demonstrated capacity to establish and achieve goals
8. Excellent written and oral communication skills
9. A demonstrated capacity to work in a collegiate manner with other staff in the workplace
10. Advanced computer skills with experience using Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint

11. A vision for the future needs and development of First Nations People and the water sector within Australia and internationally, from research and educational perspectives

## **OTHER JOB RELATED INFORMATION**

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- Travel to other campuses of the University may be required
- There may be a requirement to work additional hours from time to time
- There may be peak periods of work during which taking of leave may be restricted
- A current satisfactory Working With Children Check is required

## **GOVERNANCE**

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Monash University expects staff to appropriately balance risk and reward in a manner that is sustainable to its long-term future, contribute to a culture of honesty and integrity, and provide an environment that is safe, secure and inclusive. Ensure you are aware of and adhere to University policies relevant to the duties undertaken and the values of the University. This is a standard which the University sees as the benchmark for all of its activities in Australia and internationally.