

## Position Description

### Postdoctoral Research Fellow

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<b>Position No:</b>	50032728
<b>Department:</b>	Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre
<b>School:</b>	Psychology and Public Health
<b>Campus/Location:</b>	Bundoora Campus
<b>Classification:</b>	Level B – Postdoctoral Research Fellow
<b>Employment Type:</b>	Full time, fixed term (to 30 June 2020)
<b>Position Supervisor: Number:</b>	Professor Cheryl Dissanayake 50022454
<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 Psychology and Public Health – <http://latrobe.edu.au/school-psychology-and-public-health>

Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre – <http://latrobe.edu.au/otarc>

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#### For enquiries only contact:

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# Position Description

## Level B - Postdoctoral Research Fellow

A Level B research only academic is expected to make original contributions 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

This Postdoctoral Researcher position is within both the Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre and the Victorian Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre on the Bundoora campus. The position is funded by the Department of Social Services (DSS) to undertake and publish research related to the implementation and evaluation of intervention at the Victorian Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre, which is one of six centres nationally that provide early learning and care and specific intervention support to children aged zero to six years with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) within a long day care setting. These centres are intended to also provide parents with support in the care of their children and give them the opportunity to participate more fully in the community.

It is expected that that Research Fellow will work cooperatively within a transdisciplinary team at the Victorian Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre. S/he will also work collaboratively with the Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centres at a national level and provide leadership around the research related to early learning and development of children with ASD.

The Research Fellow will be part of the research team at the Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre, one of five research centres within the School of Psychology and Public Health in the College of Science, Health & Engineering. The College offers a range of general and specialist undergraduate and postgraduate courses that are rigorous and attuned to meeting the needs of students in ensuring their readiness to work in changing environments. The College research achievements have an outstanding reputation for their innovation and contribution to society and are at the forefront of building strong relationships with industry partners.

### Specific Duties

To undertake and publish research related to the implementation and evaluation of the Early Start Denver Model in the care and education of children (0 to 6 years) with an ASD at the Victorian Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre, and related research on the early social, emotional and cognitive development of these children.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the co-ordination of research at the Victorian Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre including all document and protocol management, the recruitment of participants, as well as undertaking assessments and coding of data. S/he needs to be trained to a research reliable standard to conduct assessments using the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS-2) in addition to the other behavioural and cognitive assessments.

### Duties at this level may include:

- Co-ordinate and undertake the clinical evaluation program determined by DSS.
- Initiate and develop other research projects for approval by the Supervisor and the Centre's Coordination Group including with external early intervention services.
- Co-ordinate, conduct, prepare and publish research under limited supervision and in collaboration with the Victorian Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre and the Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre teams.
- Write and submit Research Project Ethics Applications in accordance with the University Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC).
- Maintain assessment and other research data and conduct data analysis using specified and agreed techniques and models. Contribute to the development of techniques, models and methods.

- Contribute to and coordinate the preparation, or where appropriate individual preparation, of research proposal submissions to external funding bodies with approval of the Supervisor and Centre's Coordination Group.
- Supervise research-support and administrative staff and student researchers involved in research at the Victorian Centre.
- Translate research findings into service application in collaboration with the Victorian Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre team.
- Be involved, where appropriate, in the promotion of research links with outside bodies.
- Participate in professional activities including presentations at conferences and seminars in field of expertise subject to availability of funds.
- Co-supervise or where appropriate supervise honours and postgraduate research projects within the field of research expertise.
- Develop a limited amount of research related material for teaching or other purposes with appropriate guidance from more senior staff.
- Attend meetings associated the work of the organisational units to which the research is connected (e.g., Department of Social Services; Victorian Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre and the Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre).
- Keep up-to-date with current and emerging issues in ASD and early childhood intervention, learning and care and advise the Victorian Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre team of anything that could impact on provided services.
- Contribute to and uphold a robust and ambitious research culture.
- Provide service to the profession and/or discipline through professional association memberships.
- Provide occasional contributions to the OTARC and ASELCC's teaching and training programs.
- Undertake limited administrative functions primarily connected with the area of research.
- Undertake other duties commensurate with the classification and scope of the position as required by the OTARC Director or representative.

### **Key Selection Criteria**

- Completion of a PhD in a relevant discipline or professional area.
- High level knowledge about ASD/other developmental conditions
- Knowledge of and experience in conducting assessments of young children and their families.
- Evidence of experience in research and evaluation and the ability to work effectively under limited supervision or independently.
- A record of contribution to publications, conference papers and/or reports, or professional or technical contributions which provide evidence of research potential.
- Experience in the analysis and modelling of data, including the capacity to integrate data from a range of sources and of uneven quality.
- Effective oral and written communication skills, including the ability to interact effectively with people from a diverse range of backgrounds.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, especially the capacity to work collaboratively and cooperatively in small teams.
- Demonstrated high level of self-motivation and personal management skills.

### **Desirable Attributes**

- Postdoctoral research experience resulting in publications, conference papers, reports or professional or technical contributions which give evidence of research ability related to Autism Spectrum Disorders.
- Database management expertise

- SPSS, R, other software analysis skills
- Ability to translate research findings into service application
- Experience in evaluating intervention programs

**Other relevant information:**

- The position description is indicative of the initial expectation of the role and subject to changes to University goals and priorities, activities or focus of the job.

**Essential Compliance Requirements**

To hold this La Trobe University position the occupant must:

- hold, or be willing to undertake and pass, a Victorian Working With Children Check; AND
- take personal accountability to comply with all University policies, procedures and legislative or regulatory obligations; including but not limited to TEQSA and the Higher Education Threshold Standards.

**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: