



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Centre for Mental Health
Melbourne School of Population and Global Health
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

Research Assistant – Population Mental Health

POSITION NO	0058917
CLASSIFICATION	Research Assistant, Level A
SALARY	\$77,171 - \$90,394 p.a. (pro rata for part-time)
SUPERANNUATION	Employer contribution of 17%
WORKING HOURS	Full-time / part-time (0.8 FTE)
BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT	Full- time fixed term position available for 1 year
OTHER BENEFITS	https://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/staff-benefits
HOW TO APPLY	Online applications are preferred. Go to http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers , select the relevant option ('Current Opportunities' or 'Jobs available to current staff'), then find the position by title or number.
CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY	Prof Nicola Reavley Tel +61 3 90357628 Email nreavley@unimelb.edu.au <i>Please do not send your application to this contact</i>

For information about working for the University of Melbourne, visit our website:
about.unimelb.edu.au/careers

Acknowledgement of Country

The University of Melbourne acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the unceded land on which we work, learn and live: the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples (Burnley, Fishermans Bend, Parkville, Southbank and Werribee campuses), the Yorta Yorta Nation (Dookie and Shepparton campuses), and the Dja Dja Wurrung people (Creswick campus).

The University also acknowledges and is grateful to the Traditional Owners, Elders and Knowledge Holders of all Indigenous nations and clans who have been instrumental in our reconciliation journey.

We recognise the unique place held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original owners and custodians of the lands and waterways across the Australian continent, with histories of continuous connection dating back more than 60,000 years. We also acknowledge their enduring cultural practices of caring for Country.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and future, and acknowledge the importance of Indigenous knowledge in the Academy. As a community of researchers, teachers, professional staff and students we are privileged to work and learn every day with Indigenous colleagues and partners.

Position Summary

This position is located within the Population Mental Health Group, Centre for Mental Health, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, and within the ALIVE National Centre for Mental Health Research Translation and Prevention across the Life Course Research Program

A Research Assistant with strong academic skills and strong academic performance in mental health research is needed to work with the Population Mental Health Research team on a number of different projects.

They will also assist with a project within the NHMRC Special Initiative in Mental Health funded ALIVE National Centre (2021-2026). The Centre Mission is transforming mental health and wellbeing through primary care and community action. The Centre's Vision is to support mental health and wellbeing for thriving lives. Work is conducted across novel preventive life course models: longer, healthier lives in priority populations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and people with unmet physical health needs living with severe mental ill-health); and Lived-Experience models and research leadership.

This Prevention across the Life Course project aims to explore whether a community-based mental health promotion intervention protects and promotes mental health and wellbeing in young people in rural and regional communities. A secondary aim is to explore the implementation-related factors that contribute to outcomes. Findings will be used to support mental health promotion organisations as they widen dissemination of their programs and we will also leverage these findings to generate a novel framework for those involved in implementation of community-based programs to address the social determinants of mental health in young people.

The appointee will also assist with a program of research into the potential of AI to provide initial assistance to people with mental health problems. The research will examine the acceptability and satisfaction of users, and evaluate the quality of advice provided by AI chatbots.

The appointee will report to The Chief Investigator of the project, Prof Nicola Reavley, and as a member of the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health's academic team will be expected to support the broad ethos of the School and the School's compliance with University policies and procedures, including environmental health and safety.

The successful candidate will be enthusiastic with a strong interest in mental health research. They must have exceptional organisational skills, possess the ability to work within a team atmosphere and be a self-starter.

1. Key Responsibilities

1.1 RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING

- ▶ Participate in research independently and as a member of a research team
- ▶ Assist with writing of ethics applications
- ▶ Recruit participants for research projects and collect outcome measures.
- ▶ Set up data files and carry out quantitative and qualitative analyses
- ▶ Assist in the production of quality conference and seminar papers and publications
- ▶ Assist in the production publications arising from scholarship and research, such as books and peer reviewed journal articles
- ▶ Assist in the application for funding to support individual or collaborative projects, relating to teaching, research and engagement practice in the discipline

1.2 LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

- ▶ Actively participate at School and/or Faculty meetings and contribute to planning or committee work to build capacity in the School/discipline and in the ALIVE National Centre.
- ▶ Actively participate in key aspects of engagement within the University e.g., School's outreach, first year orientation, academic advice to external bodies and in those related to the ALIVE National Centre
- ▶ Participate in community and professional activities related to the relevant disciplinary area including attendance and presentations at conferences and seminars
- ▶ Positive engagement in learning and career development of self and others
- ▶ Effective demonstration and promotion of University values including diversity and inclusion and high standards of ethics and integrity.
- ▶ Enact the values of the ALIVE National Centre for Mental Health Research Translation and work to its vision and mission
- ▶ Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in section 5.

2. Selection Criteria

2.1 ESSENTIAL

- ▶ Bachelor (Honours) or Masters Degree relevant to mental health, with a high level of academic achievement
- ▶ Knowledge of child and youth mental health, and school-based interventions
- ▶ Experience and technical skills in research and evaluation, including quantitative and qualitative methods

- ▶ Ability to set up studies involving AI chatbots
- ▶ Interpersonal skills necessary for participant recruitment and engagement
- ▶ Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to work independently and collaboratively in a team to achieve project goals and meet agreed deadlines.

2.2 DESIRABLE

- ▶ Experience in working with people with lived experience of mental ill health or their carers and supporters
- ▶ Research experience in experimental studies or qualitative research

2.3 OTHER JOB RELATED INFORMATION

- ▶ This position requires the incumbent to hold a current and valid Working with Children Check.
- ▶ The incumbent will be required to be comfortable working with videoconferencing software such as Zoom, MS Teams and Webex
- ▶ Employee with Supervisor must plan to take any accrued leave within the contract period stated.

3. *Equal Opportunity, Diversity and Inclusion*

The University is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing a workplace free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, bullying, vilification and victimisation. The University makes decisions on employment, promotion, and reward on the basis of merit.

The University is committed to all aspects of equal opportunity, diversity and inclusion in the workplace and to providing all staff, students, contractors, honorary appointees, volunteers and visitors with a safe, respectful and rewarding environment free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, vilification and victimisation. This commitment is set out in the Advancing Melbourne strategy that addresses diversity and inclusion, equal employment opportunity, discrimination, sexual harassment, bullying and appropriate workplace behaviour. All staff are required to comply with all University policies.

The University values diversity because we recognise that the differences in our people's age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, physical ability and background bring richness to our work environment. Consequently, the People Strategy sets out the strategic aim to drive diversity and inclusion across the University to create an environment where the compounding benefits of a diverse workforce are recognised as vital in our continuous desire to strive for excellence and reach the targets of Advancing Melbourne.

4. *Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)*

All staff are required to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of other personnel who may be affected by their conduct.

OHS responsibilities applicable to positions are published at:

<https://safety.unimelb.edu.au/people/community/responsibilities-of-personnel>

These include general staff responsibilities and those additional responsibilities that apply for Managers and Supervisors and other Personnel.

5. Other Information

5.1 ORGANISATION UNIT

The Centre for Mental Health aims to improve mental health and mitigate the impact of mental illness at a population level. It does this through high quality, collaborative, interdisciplinary research, academic teaching, professional and community education, and mental health system development.

The Centre contributes to evidence-informed mental health policy and practice in Australia and internationally through the work of its three units:

- Mental Health Policy and Practice
- Population Mental Health
- Global and Cultural Mental Health
- Mental Health Epidemiology

The Centre's four units are involved in active and productive collaborations within the University and beyond. These relationships range from not-for-profit agencies like Mind Australia through to international NGOs such as the World Health Organization, and enable us to translate our research into policy and practice.

5.2 THE MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF POPULATION AND GLOBAL HEALTH

The Melbourne School of Population Health was established in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences in 2001. It became the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health in 2013. Approximately 350 people work in the School. The School employs 223 academic staff, and 111 professional staff. A further 15-20 staff are employed through partner agencies. The School's total budget is in excess of \$50m. There are approximately 120 higher degree research students (predominantly PhD). The School aims to strengthen the understanding, capacity and services of society to meet population health needs and to improve the quality and equity of health care. It employs a population health framework that incorporates public health and preventative medicine, health promotion, clinical medicine and allied healthcare disciplines and an equity and evidence-based approach to health care and health policy. Its research programs aim to elucidate the genetic, environmental, social and economic determinants of health, and to focus on the evaluation of the health systems, programs and services that seek to prevent disease and injury and to promote health. The School provides research and professional development opportunities for medical undergraduates, postgraduates in a wide range of disciplines, clinicians in all sectors of the health care industry, scientists, professionals and leaders in population health.

The School is currently composed of four Centres, one Institute and two partnership units:

Centres

- Centre for Health Equity (CHE)

- Centre for Health Policy (CHP)
- Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CEB)
- Centre for Mental Health (CMH)
- Onemda: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing

Institutes

- The Nossal Institute for Global Health (NIGH)
- Melbourne Disability Institute

Further information about the School is available at <http://www.mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/>

5.3 FACULTY OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

www.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences has an enviable research record and is the University of Melbourne's largest faculty in terms of management of financial resources, employment of academic and professional staff, teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate (including research higher degree) students and the conduct of basic and applied research. The Faculty's annual revenue is \$628m with approximately 55% of this income related to research activities.

The Faculty has a student teaching load in excess of 8,500 equivalent full-time students including more than 1,300 research higher degree students. The Faculty has approximately 2,195 staff comprising 642 professional staff and 1,553 research and teaching staff.

The Faculty has appointed Australia's first Associate Dean (Indigenous Development) to lead the development and implementation of the Faculty's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), which will be aligned with the broader University – wide plan. To enable the Faculty to improve its Indigenous expertise knowledge base, the Faculty's RAP will address Indigenous employment, Indigenous student recruitment and retention, Indigenous cultural recognition and building partnerships with the Indigenous community as key areas of development.

5.4 THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Established in 1853, the University of Melbourne is a leading international university with a tradition of excellence in teaching and research. The main campus in Parkville is recognised as the hub of Australia's premier knowledge precinct comprising eight hospitals, many leading research institutes and a wide-range of knowledge-based industries. With outstanding performance in international rankings, the University is at the forefront of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

The University employs people of outstanding calibre and offers a unique environment where staff are valued and rewarded.

Further information about working at The University of Melbourne is available at <http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers>

5.5 ADVANCING MELBOURNE

The University's strategic direction is grounded in its purpose. While its expression may change, our purpose is enduring: to benefit society through the transformative impact of

education and research. Together, the vision and purpose inform the focus and scale of our aspirations for the coming decade.

Advancing Melbourne reflects the University's commitment to its people, its place, and its partners. Our aspiration for 2030 is to be known as a world-leading and globally connected Australian university, with our students at the heart of everything we do.

- ▶ We will offer students a distinctive and outstanding education and experience, preparing them for success as leaders, change agents and global citizens.
- ▶ We will be recognised locally and globally for our leadership on matters of national and global importance, through outstanding research and scholarship and a commitment to collaboration.
- ▶ We will be empowered by our sense of place and connections with communities. We will take opportunities to advance both the University and the City of Melbourne in close collaboration and synergy.
- ▶ We will deliver this through building a brilliant, diverse and vibrant University community, with strong connections to those we serve.

The means for achieving these goals include the development of the University of Melbourne's academic and professional staff and the capabilities needed to support a modern, world-class university. Those means require a commitment to ongoing financial sustainability and an ambitious infrastructure program which will reshape the campus and our contribution to the communities we engage with. This strategy, and the priorities proposed, is centred around five intersecting themes; place, community, education, discovery and global.

5.6 GOVERNANCE

The Vice Chancellor is the Chief Executive Officer of the University and responsible to Council for the good management of the University.

Comprehensive information about the University of Melbourne and its governance structure is available at <https://about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy/governance>