

## Position Description

### Research Officer

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<b>Position No:</b>	NEW
<b>Department:</b>	Judith Lumley Centre
<b>School:</b>	Nursing and Midwifery
<b>Campus/Location:</b>	Adelaide (Women and Children's Hospital)
<b>Classification:</b>	Higher Education Officer Level 5 (HEO5)
<b>Employment Type:</b>	Part-time, Fixed Term
<b>Position Supervisor:</b>	Associate Professor Catherine Chamberlain
<b>Number:</b>	50141647
<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>

College of Nursing and Midwifery – <http://latrobe.edu.au/school-nursing-and-midwifery>

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#### For enquiries only contact:

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# Position Description

## Research Officer

Healing the past by nurturing the future: Co-designing perinatal strategies, pregnancy up to two years after birth, to identify and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents experiencing complex childhood trauma

### Position Context

Becoming a parent is exciting but it can be hard. Particularly for parents who have experienced difficulties in their own childhood, which can have long lasting effects on physical, social and emotional wellbeing, including 'complex trauma'. The effects may be 'triggered' during pregnancy and the transition to becoming a parent, which can be distressing and create challenges for providing the baby with a nurturing environment. On the flip side, growing research shows that becoming a parent offers a unique life-time opportunity to heal from this childhood hurt and to provide a loving nurturing family for children to thrive. However, despite frequent scheduled contacts with health care providers during the perinatal period before and after childbirth, there are currently limited strategies for trauma-integrated perinatal care and support for parents.

The **purpose** of this Aboriginal-led four-year community-based participatory action research project is to learn how we can best support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Aboriginal) parents experiencing complex trauma during pregnancy and the first two years after birth. The co-design strategies aim to improve four key domains of perinatal care:

1. *Awareness* of the impact of trauma on parents or 'trauma-informed' perinatal care to minimise the risks of triggering and compounding trauma responses.
2. *Safe recognition* of parents who may benefit from assessment and support, with processes to reduce risk of harm.
3. *Assessment* of complex trauma symptoms to accurately identify parents experiencing distress.
4. *Support* strategies for parents to heal, including psychological/emotional, social, cultural and physical strategies.

Further information is available in the [published protocol](#) and on our [project website](#).

The aim of this position is to provide research support to ensure successful implementation of the project in South Australia. This position is part of an operational team located across Melbourne and Alice Springs, based in Adelaide with supervision from local project Chief Investigators (Karen Glover and Dr Yvonne Clark).

### Duties at this level may include:

- Recruitment and conducting interviews with research participants using specified and agreed techniques and protocols, data entry, report writing.
- Using judgement, initiative and reflection based on community, theoretical and technical knowledge to apply to a range of differing situations, such as recruitment, community engagement etc.
- Identifying gaps or shortfalls in information (e.g. information that is relevant and appropriate for parents).
- Monitoring and maintaining accurate records to meet project requirements.
- Ensuring that resources are appropriately and efficiently managed.

- Operating as an individual, and also as part of the multi-site team.
- Responsible for the organisation and delivery of specialised work, to meet project objectives.
- Improving own professional capability and expertise through appropriate development and/or professional activities.
- Self-reflection on practise to continually develop and improve expertise.
- Taking the needs of others (including participant families) into account when selecting between work methods, procedures and sequences.
- Detailed knowledge and application of policies, systems and procedures of the project.

**Key Selection Criteria to be addressed individually in the application:**

**ESSENTIAL**

- Experience of working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and/or communities.
- Completion of a tertiary qualification (or equivalent experience) relevant to the position.
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- Effective oral and written communication skills, including the ability to interact effectively with people from a diverse range of backgrounds.
- Demonstrated capacity to organise work effectively and efficiently and deliver outputs in a timely manner.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently, follow established procedures with limited supervision and contribute positively to an effective team.
- Demonstrated attention to detail,
- High level proficiency in computer software packages including Word processing, spreadsheets, databases, electronic mail, and the use of the internet as a research tool.
- Experience in planning and progressing work activities within general guidelines, using initiative and judgement.
- Maintaining effective working relationships with the team.

**DESIRABLE**

- Previous research experience.

**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.
- This position is part of a research project managed from Melbourne. The project team are located in Melbourne, Alice Springs and Adelaide, and this position is based in Adelaide. A high level of responsibility and initiative is required as well as strong teamwork across all sites.
- **Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander applicants are strongly encouraged to apply.**

**Essential Compliance Requirements**

To hold this La Trobe University position the occupant must:

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

### **Position Flexibility**

La Trobe University is committed to providing a diverse, inclusive and respectful working environment for all staff. We offer flexible work arrangements that can assist you in balancing your work and other responsibilities.

### **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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Initials:                      Date: