

Position Description

Senior Research Fellow

Position No:	NEW
Department:	Judith Lumley Centre
School:	Nursing and Midwifery
Campus/Location:	La Trobe Bundoora campus
Classification:	LEVEL C Senior Research Fellow
Employment Type:	Full-time/ Part-time, Fixed-term
Position Supervisor:	Associate Professor Catherine Chamberlain
Number:	50141647
Other Benefits:	http://www.latrobe.edu.au/jobs/working/benefits

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>

For enquiries only contact:

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Position Description

Senior Research Fellow: Healing the past by nurturing the future: Co-designing perinatal strategies to identify and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents experiencing complex childhood trauma

A Level C research only academic is expected to carry out independent and/or team research within the relevant field and carry out activities to develop their research expertise relevant to the particular field of research.

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. The effects may be 'triggered' during pregnancy and the transition to becoming a parent, which can be distressing and create challenges for creating a nurturing environment for the new baby. On the flip side, growing research shows that becoming a parent offers a unique life-time opportunity to heal from this childhood hurt, and 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 who have experienced childhood trauma during pregnancy and the first two years after birth. The project is being conducted in three jurisdictions (Northern Territory, South Australia and Victoria), with key stakeholders from all Australian jurisdictions participating in co-design workshops. The project **aims** to 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** for parents.

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

Project role

This position is a senior role to ensure successful implementation and management of the project. This would ideally suit an applicant who is very organised with project management experience, and has a high level of academic writing and research expertise evidenced by a strong academic track record.

Duties may include

- Coordinating submission of ethics application/s.
- Conducting and publishing high quality research as a member of a team or independently and produce conference/seminar papers and publications from that research.
- Development of protocols and processes for promoting a culturally and emotionally safe project environment for team members, partners, community members and participating families.

- Co-supervising or, where appropriate supervise Higher Degree by Research (HDR) postgraduate students as required.
- Playing a significant role in the research project, including leadership within the team and project management.
- Supervising research support and administrative staff involved in research and, where appropriate, supervise the research of less senior research-only colleagues.
- Contributing to knowledge and knowledge transfer, at a local and/or nationally significant level.
- Attending to effective and efficient performance of allocated leadership and administrative functions primarily connected with the area of research.
- Contributing to building a robust and ambitious research culture within La Trobe.
- Assisting with research funding submissions.
- Actively engaging and building partnerships with industry and government on major research issues.

Key Selection Criteria to be addressed individually in the application:

ESSENTIAL

- Completion of a PhD or equivalent accreditation and standing together with subsequent research experience.
- A record of high-level scholarly research, as evidenced by the impact and significance of research outcomes.
- Strong record of publications in high quality peer-reviewed journals, conference papers, reports in the relevant discipline area.
- A proven record of successful supervision to completion of Honours, Masters and PhD students.
- Experience in the preparation of research proposal submissions to external funding bodies and evidence of success in securing funding.

DESIRABLE

- Expertise in perinatal services, mental health and/or trauma.

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.
- **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 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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Initials: Date: