

## Position Description

### Research Fellow

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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>	La Trobe Bundoora campus
<b>Classification:</b>	LEVEL B Research Fellow
<b>Employment Type:</b>	Full-time/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

### **Level B 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 B 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**

##### *Level B*

- 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.

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

### **ESSENTIAL**

- Completion of a PhD or equivalent qualifications or research experience.
- Sound analytical skills with an ability to communicate complex information clearly both orally and in writing.
- High level organisational skills: the ability to set priorities, meet deadlines, initiate and follow-up actions.
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively and productively with staff and students from a diverse range of backgrounds.
- Ability to liaise effectively with a range of collaborators nationally and/or internationally and with industry partners.
- Evidence of the ability to work as a member of a team in a co-operative and collegial manner.
- Demonstrated high level of self-motivation and personal management skills.
- Evidence of experience in research and evaluation and the ability to work effectively under limited supervision or independently.
- Experience in conducting recruitment, data collection, analysis and publication of qualitative research, community-based participative research and/or psychometric research.
- Demonstrated ability to supervise, or co-supervise, Honours, Masters and/or PhD students.
- Experience and/or demonstrated understanding of working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

### **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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For Human Resource Use Only

Initials:                      Date: