

Position Description

HARMONY Study Coordinator

Position No:	50143165
Organisation Unit:	Judith Lumley Centre for mother, infant and family health research
College:	Science, Health and Engineering
Campus/Location:	Bundoora Campus
Classification:	Level B – Research Fellow
Employment Type:	Fixed Term, Part-time
Position Supervisor Number:	Professor, Nursing and Midwifery 50006588
Other Benefits:	http://www.latrobe.edu.au/jobs/working/benefits

Further information about:

La Trobe University - <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/about>

College of Science, Health and Engineering – <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/jlc>

For enquiries only contact:

Professor Angela Taft, TEL: 03 9479 8809

HARMONY Study Co-ordinator



Position Context

Background:

This position is based in the Judith Lumley Centre for mother, infant and family health research. The Research Fellow position offers the unique opportunity for an experienced researcher to work with an outstanding team of family violence scholars to develop new and rigorous evidence for how general practices can better work with family violence agencies and advocates to support women and children experiencing family violence in South Asian communities. This is a four-year position funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council, in partnership with the Victorian state and federal governments.

The study is being led by La Trobe University, but includes investigators from Universities of Melbourne, Bristol and the Murdoch Institute and partner organisations from the Federal Department of Social Services, Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion Division, Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet, and In Touch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence. The Research Fellow will be working with a team that is participating in the NHMRC Centre of Excellence for Safer Families and LAVAWN (La Trobe Violence Against Women Network).

The Judith Lumley Centre (JLC) is a successful and well recognised multidisciplinary public health research centre in the College of Science, Health and Engineering at La Trobe University. Established in 1991, JLC has a broad public health and population focus and an inclusive approach to the social and medical aspects of health and care for mothers, their children and other family members. The centre is committed to social justice and culturally safe research in diverse communities. We link the need for research, service development, evaluation and policy. We believe in multidisciplinary approaches to the testing of sustainable interventions in randomised trials, to research translation into clinical practice or policy, and to the implementation of effective and cost-effective interventions.

The research focus of JLC includes the following areas: mother and infant health; transition to contemporary parenthood; maternity care and family services in the early years; sexual and reproductive health; breastfeeding; and reducing violence against women and children. This study addresses violence against women and children.

The project:

Family violence (FV) damages the health and well-being of people and communities. Australia benefits from its culturally diverse populations, but women in diaspora communities can be highly vulnerable to family violence, and rates of victimisation and murder are similar to those in their home countries. Evidence for culturally sensitive interventions to improve the health, safety and well-being of abused migrant and refugee women and families is very sparse. Healthcare professionals (especially GPs) are often the first people to whom women turn after family and friends, but clinicians are not well trained or resourced to offer effective support or to document appropriately. GP software

systems are currently not designed or effective for clinicians to easily record family violence or the ethnicity of victims.

Harmony is an NHMRC funded study to test a multi-component model of training and resourcing bilingual GPs and their clinical colleagues to identify safely, support, and if appropriate refer patients experiencing FV. You will be working with an internationally recognised team of experts in family violence, primary care, general practice, migrant and refugee health and health economics scholarship.

These components include:

- On-site face to face specialised family violence training and resources for clinical and administrative staff in GP clinics, facilitated jointly by a GP trainer and FV case worker/advocate
- Active and personalised support for women patients referred by GPs to the project's family violence case-worker based at InTouch migrant family violence service
- Testing specialised GP systems software developed for the purpose of making documentation easier and improving family violence record keeping in general practice

Primary objective:

We designed this position to have day-to day responsibility for the coordination and implementation of the HARMONY randomised controlled trial.

Specific Duties

1. Responsibility for day-to-day co-ordination of the HARMONY study
2. Supervision of research support staff employed on HARMONY
3. Liaison with key stakeholders e.g. participating GP clinics, In Touch Multicultural Centre against Family Violence, NHMRC Linkage partners and any participating Primary Health Networks
4. Participation in regular meetings with, and preparation of reports for relevant stakeholders
5. Involvement in ethics applications and study instrument preparation
6. Establishment and oversight of trial databases and management of trial documents and files
7. Monitoring of trial progress, oversight of data collection processes and participation in data analysis and publications reporting trial findings
8. Engagement in professional development activities, such as presentations at conferences and seminars, where funding is available
9. Other duties as determined by the HARMONY research team leaders

Key Selection Criteria

Essential Requirements

1. Completion of a PhD (or a GP medical degree and at least Masters) and subsequent research experience
2. A developing publication profile that shows evidence of potential for becoming an established productive researcher
3. Excellent written and verbal communication skills with health professionals and researchers
4. Excellent project management skills
5. High level computing skills using the Microsoft Office suite and experience with statistical software packages for data analysis
6. Ability to work in a multidisciplinary research team and to supervise support staff.

Eligible South Asian applicants are encouraged to apply

Desirable Attributes

1. Having a South Asian background
2. Previous experience in research project co-ordination, particularly randomised controlled trials
3. Experience in general practice or a primary health network of some kind
4. A current driver's license

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.

For Human Resource Use Only

Initials:

Date: