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## Position Description

<b>Position Title:</b>	Mental Health Advocacy Lead
<b>Salary Range:</b>	Professional & Administrative Salaries Level 8 Step 1 - Level 9 Step 3
<b>Reporting Manager:</b>	Professor Sharon Goldfeld, Theme Director, Population Health; Co-group Leader, Policy & Equity; RCH Director, Centre for Community Child Health
<b>Direct Reports:</b>	None
<b>Home Group:</b>	Policy & Equity (Centre for Community Child Health)

### Who are we?

The Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) is home to significant scientific discoveries. We believe there is an answer, a cure or a better treatment for every childhood condition – and we're determined to find it.

We are a diverse team of world-leading researchers, doctors, engineers, and hardworking professionals in corporate and scientific services from all corners of the world with one shared goal – to transform child health worldwide.

Our strength lies in our partnership and co-location with The Royal Children's Hospital and the University of Melbourne – the Melbourne Children's Campus. This rare model amplifies opportunities to quickly translate research into clinical care.

At MCRI, you'll also find our subsidiary organisation, the Victorian Clinical Genetics Services (VCGS), a specialist childhood, prenatal and adult genetics service. VCGS provides an integrated genetic consultation, counselling, testing and diagnostic support service to children, adults, families and prospective parents.

Together, we share a powerful vision: re-imagine the future of child health.

### What is it like to work for us?

We are committed to ensuring a positive working environment that values all backgrounds and experiences. We cultivate an inclusive culture that is underpinned by equal opportunity for all and a culture based on respect, consideration and dignity. We are also committed to developing our people and fostering an environment where learning and development is central to our staff reaching their full potential.

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## Position Overview

### The Centre for Community Child Health (CCCH)

The Centre for Community Child Health (CCCH) is a research group of the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, a department of The Royal Children's Hospital, and an affiliate of the University of Melbourne's Department of Paediatrics. At CCCH we strive for health and developmental equity for all children. As a world-leading driver and innovator in child health and development we partner with families, communities, services and governments to extend our impact from the individual child to local, national and international communities. Our work is broad and deep. We do clinical care, research, evaluation, knowledge translation, training and development and advocacy.

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The Mental Health Leadership Project (MHLP) was established in 2018 thanks to the vision and generosity of Danielle Besen. The focus of the MHLP was to drive an agenda for equitable mental health outcomes for all children and young people.

Over the past three years the MHLP has achieved significant outcomes:

- The Melbourne Children's Campus Mental Health Strategy 2021-2025 has been funded for 2 years by the RCH Foundation.
- Strong links have been established with the Victorian Departments of Education and Health.
- In work commissioned by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, CCCH delivered detailed reports mapping child and adolescent mental health services to identify gaps and duplication of effort, and to help inform government policy and future funding. This has also been an important resource for the Royal Commission. Increased stakeholder engagement, relationship building, and overall coordination of our mental health work has led to the expansion of the [Mental Health in Primary Schools \(MHiPS\) project](#), which was piloted in 10 Victorian primary schools in 2020 and will be trialled in an additional 16 schools in 2021.

This new position, The Mental Health Advocacy Lead has been designed for a committed mid-career person to build upon the strong foundations of the MHLP, to lead mental health advocacy efforts across the Centre for Community Child Health and work with the Melbourne Children's Campus to amplify mental health advocacy for children and adolescents. The Mental Health Advocacy Lead will be a dedicated position in Advocacy that will work with CCCH and the Melbourne Children's Campus to influence government mental health policy and continue the system reform needed to make a sustained difference with a focus on prevention, equity and helping children and young people who are struggling with mental health difficulties.

To achieve this, a strategic and systems thinking approach to advocacy, research and translating knowledge to action is required.

**In this position you will:**

- 1) Leverage existing resources and mental health initiatives at MCRI/RCH to:
  - Drive the development of mental health Policy Briefs that are timely and evidence based with an associated dissemination strategy.
  - Coordinate mental health efforts across the Centre for Community Child Health (CCCH) to maximise impact, secure additional funding, and accelerate outcomes.
- 2) Work with the Melbourne Children's Mental Health Strategy to develop a collaborative advocacy agenda that aligns with and is informed by:
  - The Royal Commission (Victorian and Federal).
  - The National Children's Mental Health Strategy.
  - Post COVID-19 policy responses.
- 3) Actively advocate with state and federal governments, services and communities to drive equitable mental health outcomes in our community.
- 4) Use the outcomes of the mapped child and adolescent mental health services (2018-20) to:
  - Develop a series of thought leadership publications.
  - Highlight the steps required to transform the current system into a comprehensive, equitable and sustainable mental health system for children and young people.
  - Inform and design specific projects to fill identified service gaps - such as Mental Health in Primary Schools - where the Government should target investment.
  - Advocate for increased (or re-focused) investment in the programs and services that evidence shows will lead to the biggest improvements in child and youth mental health.

**Key challenges**

- Establishing and maintaining positive, collaborative relationships with diverse stakeholders.
- Prioritising the key activities of the advocacy agenda to ensure they are achieved within the given resources and time.
- Coordinating mental health efforts across the Centre for Community Child Health.

**Key opportunities**

- Contributing to better child mental health outcomes for Australian children.
  - Contributing to thought leadership in child mental health with leadership on the Melbourne Children's Campus.
  - Building your career.
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## Key Accountabilities

- Coordinate mental health efforts across the Centre for Community Child Health (CCCH) to maximise impact, secure additional funding, and accelerate outcomes.
- Drive the development of mental health Policy Briefs that are timely and evidence based with an associated dissemination strategy.
- In consultation, take responsibility for new funding opportunities and lead the tender/grant application.
- Work with the Melbourne Children's Mental Health Strategy to develop a collaborative advocacy agenda.
- Actively advocate with state and federal governments, services and communities to drive equitable mental health outcomes in our community.
- Build upon the outcomes of the mapped child and adolescent mental health services (as detailed in position overview).
- Source, analyse and integrate research to inform policy and service.
- Lead efforts to formulate evidence-based policies designed to improve child mental health outcomes.
- Effectively communicate and influence a wide range of stakeholders including those across the Melbourne's Children's Campus and externally in the government, community and services in order to drive initiatives and impact outcomes.
- Participate in advisory, steering groups and committees and present at internal and external forums and conferences.
- Contribute to strategic planning in line with the Institute's strategic plan.
- Manage opportunities for translation across multiple projects and the team.
- Engage in the campus culture including professional development activities and attending internal/external campus conferences and seminars.
- Awareness of, and adheres to, MCRI policy on Intellectual Property/Material Transfer Agreements/Contracts/Clinical and Public Health Outcomes.

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## Selection Criteria

- Masters/PhD qualification in health or a related discipline e.g. Science, Public Health.
- An appropriate level of expertise gained from a combination of experience, training or professional accreditation.
- Proven high level experience in working in a complex environment and navigating and negotiating with multiple organisations, community agencies and professional groups.
- Demonstrated ability to think strategically with a systems focus.
- Outstanding interpersonal and communication skills with experience communicating to a wide range of stakeholders.
- Demonstrated independent judgement, initiative and influencing/advocacy skills.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills including experience in the production of plain language materials and synthesising research.
- Demonstrated track record of success in securing external competitive funding is advantageous.

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## Conditions of Employment

- Working with Children & National Police Clearance (if appointed) in compliance with the Victorian Governments Child Safety Standards.
- The right to reside and work in Australia and you meeting any applicable visa conditions.

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## Health, Safety & Wellbeing

- We are committed to providing and maintaining a working environment which protects the health, safety and wellbeing of our people, partners and the community.
- Employees conducting duties on behalf of MCRI are expected to meet the environment, health and wellbeing requirements and responsibilities specifically required for the role.
- We are committed to supporting children in their right to be safe and adhere to the responsibilities we have to ensure their protection and safety as per the Child Safety Standards Policy.
- Specified positions may be subject to medical review to ensure that the inherent requirements of the role can be undertaken safely.

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*As MCRI evolves to meet its changing strategic and operational needs and objectives, so will the roles required of its employees. As such, this document is not intended to represent the position which the occupant will perform in perpetuity. This position description is intended to provide an overall view of the incumbent's role as at the date of this statement.*