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## Position Description

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<b>Position Title:</b>	Senior Research Officer (Mental Health Advocacy - Campus Mental Health Strategy 2021 - 2025)
<b>Salary Range:</b>	MCRI Research Salaries - Level B Step 3
<b>Reporting Manager:</b>	Belinda Horton, Program Director, Campus Mental Health Strategy
<b>Direct Reports:</b>	Research Assistant
<b>Home Group:</b>	Centre for Community Child Health, MCRI

### 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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### About Campus Mental Health Strategy 2021 - 2025

The Melbourne Children's Campus (Campus) and its partners (The RCH, MCRI and the Department of Paediatrics, University of Melbourne) are committed to the Mental Health Strategy 2021 - 2025 (Mental Health Strategy). The overall objective of the Mental Health Strategy is for the Campus to deliver uniform and evidence-based, comprehensive infant, child and adolescent mental health care and prevention supported by education and research to ensure the best outcomes for children and their families. Child and family centred care will be at the heart of this. The clinically driven research will inform our workforce education and training programs which in turn will inform evidence based, consistent care as well as proactive internal and external policy and funding advocacy.

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## Position Overview

The Senior Research Officer will require combined backgrounds of child mental health related research and an understanding of practice and public policy, someone with considerable gravitas and experience. They will play a central role in communicating with stakeholders across the Campus and in government, partner organisations, donors, and the general public. They will be responsible for the supervision of the Research Assistant and any future members of the advocacy team.

The role will ensure alignment of the advocacy work within the Campus Mental Health Strategy and emerging Campus priorities in mental health, as well as the Mental Health Advocacy Lead with Centre for Community Child Health (CCCH). The combined generation of resources, political/policy support and creation of external partnerships will ensure the future sustainability of impact during and post the implementation of the Mental Health Strategy.

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## Key Accountabilities

- Working with leaders and staff from research groups (MCRI, Centre for Community Child Health), educational leaders (University of Melbourne Department of Paediatrics) and specialist clinicians and departments within The RCH to implement the Mental Health Strategy, a Campus-wide approach to infant, child, and adolescent mental health.
- Working effectively as a member of the Mental Health Strategy Implementation Team and help to foster engagement and relationships with key internal and external stakeholders.
- Establishing Campus Advocacy Network with partnerships for effective, Campus, sector, government and media engagement.
- Driving, developing and delivering a Campus advocacy agenda that is refined each year based on the internal and external environments and focussed on major areas of policy and practice prioritised through consultation with both internal and external stakeholders.
- Cohesive and strategic responses to external reviews and reports.
- Advocate for changes in the external environment that support evidence-based systems of care internal to the Campus and subsequently help deliver equitable and quality approaches to mental health for children across Victoria.
- Establishing links with external stakeholders in government, professional bodies, philanthropic donors, advocacy groups, Beyond Blue, mental health NGOs, the University of Melbourne NHMRC Centre of Excellence (ALIVE) and family groups with lived experience of mental health concerns.
- Developing policy briefs highlighting the mental health needs of children/services on Campus e.g. children with chronic disease with suggested solutions. These will align with a potential broader advocacy agenda e.g. around responsive community based mental health services for children/adolescents.
- Evaluating opportunities for translation/commercialisation if appropriate.
- Conducting continuous maintenance of neat and orderly records, lab books and data storage.

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## Selection Criteria

- Relevant qualifications (e.g. PhD/Doctoral qualification, masters).
- Appropriate level of expertise gained from a combination of experience, training or professional accreditation.
- Ability to engage, work with and integrate lived experience and peer support roles and consumers (children, young people) and their carers and families in co-design, consultation, and implementation.
- Strong knowledge of and commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion and human rights and ability to apply these in organisational and policy contexts.
- Previous experience working in mental health or mental health systems including policy makers and/or practitioners across different sectors relevant to child mental health.
- Ability to analyse multiple sources of information and synthesise into an integrated strategic approach to mental health system development and quality improvement.
- Project management skills/leadership in program/project planning implementation across multiple projects and organisations with the proven ability to unite stakeholders under a common goal within the agreed timeframe.
- High level diplomacy, judgement, and problem-solving skills to resolve issues in a complex working environment.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills in engaging, developing collaborative relationships and working in partnership with diverse stakeholders to design, implement and evaluate Mental Health Strategy advocacy activities.
- Experience and ability to lead and supervise/mentor employees in order to foster a values driven and positive culture.
- Advanced verbal, written and presentation communication skills and experience with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Self-motivated with independent judgement, initiative and influencing skills, as well as a creative and strategic thinker with an innovative can-do attitude.

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- Excellent time management and organisational skills with the ability to multi-task with high attention to detail and accuracy.
  - Capacity to work collaboratively in a team environment, keeping others informed of work progress or issues.
  - Intermediate skills and knowledge using the Microsoft Office suite including spreadsheets, database programs, and word processing.
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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.*