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POSITION DESCRIPTION

Senior Lecturer / Associate Professor, Intellectual Disability Mental Health

Faculty/Division	Medicine & Health
Classification Level	Academic C or Academic D
Hours & Span (Category)	ACADEMIC POSITION NO SPAN
Position number	00245435
Shiftwork status	NOT SHIFTWORKER
Allowances	N/A
On call arrangements	N/A
Original document creation	2 April 2026

Position Summary

The Senior Lecturer / Associate Professor of Intellectual Disability Mental Health will provide academic leadership, foster excellence in collaborative intellectual and developmental disability research, innovative teaching, clinical capacity building and engagement activities.

The role is responsible for developing and overseeing an established program of translational and co-designed research in intellectual and developmental disability mental health. The position will be primarily responsible for developing capacity and approaches to intellectual and developmental disability mental in NSW and nationally, including the leadership of innovative research related to the understanding of the determinants and impact of mental health concerns in people with intellectual and developmental disability, and research related to health services and outcomes. The role works closely NSW Health and other sector stakeholders. Relevant fields of research for the appointee are broad and include clinical or translational research relevant to cognitive disabilities.

The role reports to the Director of the National Centre in Intellectual Disability Health, UNSW Medicine and Health. The role has multiple direct reports. In addition, the position has a collaborative and teaching role with the Discipline of Psychiatry and Mental Health within the School of Clinical Medicine, UNSW Medicine and Health.

Accountabilities

Specific accountabilities for this role include:

Level C

- Independently contribute to research related to the mental health needs of people with intellectual disability and autism, while ensuring that a critical mass of existing research activity undertaken by the Chair is effectively nurtured and sustained.
- Lead educational and capacity building initiatives to support Local Health Districts, Specialty Health Networks, and their staff to build capacity to work with people with intellectual/developmental disability and mental health conditions.
- Establish and maintain strong relationships with internal stakeholders within the Faculty and UNSW, and key external stakeholders including NSW Health, research and capacity building partners, Primary Health Networks, Local Health Districts, and other healthcare and disability support providers.
- Engage effectively with people with lived experience in research and capacity building initiatives.
- Mentor and guide students, groups, and colleagues; supervise HDRs to timely completion as primary supervisor; and contribute to HDR review panels.
- Align with and actively demonstrate the [Code of Conduct and Values](#)
- Ensure hazards and risks are identified and controlled for tasks, projects and activities that pose a health and safety risk within your area of responsibility.

Level D (in addition to the above)

- Lead research related to the mental health needs of people with intellectual disability and autism, while ensuring that a critical mass of research activity undertaken by the Chair is effectively nurtured and sustained.
- Make nationally recognised contributions to the discipline and influence research network/s at a national level.
- Engage with State, Territory and Australian Governments to promote and progress issues of strategic importance to the mental health needs of people with intellectual and developmental disability.
- Mentor and guide colleagues nationally, including mentoring early career researchers to obtain research grant funding and build capacity in intellectual disability health research.

- Make an independent contribution through professional practice and expertise which expands knowledge or practice in discipline area.

Skills and Experience

Level C:

- An MBBS/MD or PhD or equivalent distinguished experience in psychiatry, psychology or related health discipline, with extensive experience in intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.
- Proven commitment to proactively keeping up to date with discipline knowledge and developments.
- Demonstrated experience in development and delivery of education and training in intellectual and developmental disability mental health, including face-to-face and online methods.
- Evidence of productive relationships and engagement with external stakeholders, including Government and the community.
- Demonstrated academic excellence with research outcomes of high quality and high impact.
- Proven ability to work in co-design with people with lived experience of intellectual and/or developmental disability.
- Experience in successfully recruiting and supervising high calibre students.
- Demonstrated ability to work in a team, collaborate across disciplines and build effective relationships.
- Evidence of highly developed interpersonal and organisational skills.
- An understanding of and commitment to UNSW's aims, objectives and values in action, together with relevant policies and guidelines.
- Knowledge of health and safety responsibilities and commitment to attending relevant health and safety training.

Level D (in addition to the above):

- Demonstrated leadership experience, including managing teams and driving outcomes in complex stakeholder environments, or successful track record of liaisons between government and the disability sector.
- Leadership of projects which design, build capacity in, deliver and/or evaluate mental health services for people with intellectual disability and/or autism.
- Established national track record of mental health research.
- Capacity to mentor, provide advice and guidance to clinicians and academics in this or a related field.
- Proven leadership in developing significant productive relationships and engagement with external stakeholders, including Government and the community.

Pre-employment checks required for this position

- Verification of qualifications
- Working with Children Check
- Criminal record check

About this document

This Position Description outlines the objectives, desired outcomes, key responsibilities, accountabilities, required skills, experience and desired behaviours required to successfully perform the role.

This template is not intended to limit the scope or accountabilities of the position. Characteristics of the position may be altered in accordance with the changing requirements of the role.