



creating
possible

Youth Advisory Committee Member

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 operational 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 partnership model amplifies opportunities to quickly translate research into clinical care.

MCRI includes a wholly owned subsidiary, the Victorian Clinical Genetics Services (VCGS), a private not-for profit organisation. VCGS is 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:

Our purpose:

We want all children to have the opportunity to live a healthy and fulfilled life.

Our 2025-2030 Strategy:

Towards Precision Child Health

We exist for a **purpose**, to give all children an opportunity to live a healthy and fulfilled life.

We **value** individuals with the determination to solve complex problems, who thrive on collaboration, and who embody honesty, respect, and accountability.

Our **goals** centre around an inclusive environment in which our people can undertake bold research that can be scaled for impact through strategic partnerships.

We **operate** in a collaborative environment, tackling problems in teams, across disciplines and across boundaries.

Our research generates evidence underpinning changes that **impact** the lives of children in our hospitals, in our communities, and across the globe.

What is it like to engage with us?

We are dedicated to ensuring a positive 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 invest in developing our People and fostering an environment where learning and development is central to our staff reaching their full potential.

The Institute is also committed to the safety of children and young people and takes a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of child abuse, exploitation, and harm. The Institute prioritises child safety in our decision-making at all levels of the Institute and supports our employees to understand and enact their safeguarding responsibilities.

Better Binding Study Overview

There are many trans and gender diverse young people who bind their chests, which is the process of flattening your chest with a tight top or material. Binding can help trans and gender diverse young people to feel more comfortable in

their bodies, allowing them to feel more like themselves in all parts of their lives. While chest binding can be important for trans and gender diverse young people, binders can also be painful and restrictive. Despite this, we don't have much evidence around the long-term effects of chest binding. In the Better Binding study, we want to learn more about the positives and negatives health outcomes associated with chest binding, so that we can support trans and gender diverse young people to bind more confidently, safely, and comfortably. We will work with experts in trans healthcare, research and textile science to create evidence-based guidelines that can be used by trans and gender diverse young people, families, healthcare providers, and binder manufacturers to support better binding. We want to ensure that all trans and gender diverse young people, including non-binary young people and neurodivergent young people, have their needs represented and met through this project.

Youth Advisory Committee Member Overview

The Transgender Health Research Group at MCRI is seeking to appoint passionate trans or gender diverse young people who have experience with chest binding to a Youth Advisory Committee for the Better Binding study.

The Better Binding Youth Advisory Committee members will use their lived experience as trans and gender diverse young people to provide guidance on the design and conduct of the study, ensuring that the trans young people have a meaningful say on how research is conducted and on what is produced. The Youth Advisory Committee will be involved in all stages of the study and will provide advice on study activities such as ethics applications, data collection, data analysis, and dissemination of findings.

This is a lived experience advisory role, not an employee position. Committee members will contribute their perspectives, insights, and experiences to help shape the design, conduct, and communication of the study.

You will have a passion for the health and wellbeing of trans and gender diverse young people, and a willingness to use your lived experience to improve outcomes for other trans and gender diverse youth. In this role you will engage within a team that is committed to improving outcomes for trans and gender diverse young people, and that values the voices of trans and gender diverse youth. This includes trans and cis researchers with experience in lived experience involvement and facilitating youth advisory committees.

Who can apply?

Applicants must:

- Be aged between 16 and 21 years
- Live in Victoria
- Identify as a trans or gender diverse person, including non-binary, agender and genderfluid young people)
- Have lived experience with chest binding
- Be passionate about improving the health and wellbeing of trans and gender diverse people

What does this involve?

The members will be provided with training around youth involvement in research. You will attend group meetings ranging in frequency from every month to every three months. The meetings will be held online at a time that suits the group, with some meetings to be held in-person, in Melbourne. It is anticipated that your total involvement across the three years of the project will involve around 20-25 meetings.

As a member of the Youth Advisory Committee, you will be asked to:

- Attend training sessions
- Provide guidance on the design of the study (e.g., recruitment strategy, consent procedures, surveys)
- Provide guidance on the study materials (e.g., the information statements, consent forms, flyers, electronic diary interface)
- Provide guidance on how the research is shared and communicated (e.g., articles, resources, guidelines, media)
- Collaborate with other members of the Steering Group as well as researchers, clinicians, and community organisations,

In meetings, it is your choice about how much you share about your lived experience as a trans or gender diverse person and as someone who has used chest binding. You will be able to choose when and how you share your experience, and the information will remain confidential and will not be shared without your consent.

Support Available

We want to ensure that you feel supported throughout your involvement with the Steering Group. To do this:

- We will develop a wellbeing plan with you, which will outline the plan for supporting your safety and wellbeing throughout the project
- The project team will also have staff available to debrief with you before or after group meetings, including with trans peers
- We will have a feedback process, to ensure you can share any concerns, complaints or other feedback
- The project team will also engage in ongoing skill development to support meaningful inclusive engagement with youth advisors.

Conditions of Engagement

- Keeping children safe is our highest priority. We maintain rigorous safeguarding standards and employ comprehensive screening processes to ensure the safety of the children we work with. This includes mandatory screening processes for all successful candidates, including:
 - Valid Working with Children Check (or equivalent)
 - Satisfactory criminal record check
- The right to reside and volunteer in Australia and you meeting any applicable visa conditions

Health, Safety & Wellbeing

- We are committed to providing and maintaining an environment which protects the health, safety and wellbeing of our people, partners and the community
- 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 Policy
- The Institute is committed to the safety of children and young people and takes a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of child abuse, exploitation and harm. The Institute prioritises child safety in our decision-making at all levels of the Institute and supports our employees to understand and enact their safeguarding responsibilities
- We are committed to a diverse, inclusive environment where everyone can reach their full potential, regardless of gender, career status, age, disability, cultural background, religion or sexual orientation

Accessibility and Flexible Working Arrangements

- Most meetings will be conducted online.
- In-person meetings may occur 1-2 times per year in Parkville, Victoria. at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, co-located with the Royal Children's Hospital in Parkville, Victoria.
- In-person meetings will be in the office of the Transgender Health Research Group, who are located on the ground and second floors of a clinical and research building. There will be access to an accessible all-gender bathroom on the ground floor, and additional all-gender bathrooms via stairs. There is limited paid parking, but the building is accessible via bicycle and public transport, close to the 58 and 59 trams.

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.