



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE

Honours, MPH & HDR Student Research Projects

School of Public Health
2025

**make
history.**

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About the School of Public Health

The School of Public Health at the University of Adelaide aims to prevent disease and promote health in populations. We practise public health through our engagement as a community of leading scientists, educators, and students to advance innovative ideas to change individual behaviours, public policies, and health care practices.

We are recognised locally, nationally and internationally for our teaching and research. Our senior academic staff are leaders in their fields— in areas such as child health and development, life course epidemiology, genetic epidemiology, health technology assessment, economic modelling, health impacts of climate change, indigenous health, community engagement, and the use of deliberative methods in health research. Our teaching and research inform each other in a creative and productive relationship: all our top researchers teach and our top teachers' research.

Our core academic staff work closely with colleagues in government, non-government organisations, and industry, many of whom are academic titleholders within the School. Our titleholders help us to ensure that our teaching, research and community engagement remain grounded in the identification, analysis, and resolution of real world problems.

This document contains a snapshot of currently available research projects suitable for students interested in undertaking supervised research within our School. As evidenced by the descriptions and requirements of each, it indicates the diversity of research topics and methodologies encompassed with Public Health, providing a wide range of potential topics for research.

Projects are listed under these major research groups within our School:

- **Adelaide Health Technology Assessment**
- **BetterStart | Health and Development**
- **The Kids Research Institute Australia**
- **RMNCAH Continuum of Care**
- **Communities, People and Health Research**
- **Communities, People and Health: Counselling and Psychotherapy**
- **Communities, People and Health**
- **Communities, People and Health: International Health**
- **Communities, People and Health: SAHMRI Health Policy Centre**
- **Environment and Health Research Group**
- **Health Workforce Planning Group**
- **Genetic Epidemiology**
- **Machine Learning in Medicine**
- **Health Evidence Synthesis, Recommendations Impact (HESRI)**
- **CSIRO**
- **Stretton Health Equity**

School Honours Coordinator: Dr Clare Hume, clare.hume@adelaide.edu.au

School Higher Degree by Research Postgraduate Coordinator: Associate Professor Jaklin Elliott, jaklin.elliott@adelaide.edu.au

We prefer to supervise projects that fit within the overall framework of our established research programs; more information on these can be found [here](#).

Although projects listed here target these areas, we can consider other research topics or projects, and enquiries should be directed to the people listed above.

Adelaide Health Technology Assessment

Lead Researcher: [Professor Tracy Merlin, tracy.merlin@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:tracy.merlin@adelaide.edu.au)

[Adelaide Health Technology Assessment | University of Adelaide](#)

Our Research

Adelaide Health Technology Assessment (AHTA) is an applied research group with a national and international reputation in providing evidence-based research to governments and help them develop health policy and make funding decisions for new medicines and medical services. This type of research is known as Health Technology Assessment (HTA). It is about making a difference to the health of the whole Australian population.

AHTA has undertaken over \$60 million in applied/contract research since its inception, primarily for the Australian Government Department of Health but also for the Singapore Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation. This research assesses the safety, effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of medical services that are being considered for Medicare funding; and the appraisal of pharmaceuticals to determine whether they warrant funding under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. AHTA also assess medical devices and cancer medicines for the Therapeutic Goods Administration. We also work on clinical trials and methodological projects.

Our research interests include:

- Assessing the safety, clinical benefit and value for money of any type of new (or existing) health intervention, but particularly diagnostic tests, disruptive or digital health technologies, and cancer medicines, to inform policy decisions about whether the health intervention should be made available in the health system and for which patients,
- Evaluating medical services or health interventions to inform health professionals and clinicians make the best choice when diagnosing or treating a patient,
- Developing new methods for translating clinical evidence into policy or decision-making,
- Exploring how people make decisions about the safety, effectiveness and funding of health technologies.

Health Technology Assessment offers a number of research opportunities for students at a variety of levels.

When does the use of 'Real World Evidence' become an impediment to decision making?

Project Description:

Health technology assessment (HTA) involves providing information to policy makers so that they can make decisions on whether new medicines and medical services should be made available to patients. Large pharmaceutical companies and other industry organisations have been insistent that 'real world evidence' (observational evidence not obtained through randomised controlled trials) should be used to inform health policy decisions and, in fact, may be more useful than evidence obtained from randomised controlled trials.

This project aims to investigate whether this 'Real World Evidence' agenda is affecting the decisions made by governments about the funding of new medicines. You would attempt to answer the following questions:

1. What countries use Real World Evidence in HTA decision-making?
2. Is it used for specific areas of an HTA?
3. Has it had an impact on decision-making?
4. When is real world evidence useful in decision-making?

The project would use data from key decision-making bodies in Australia, the UK and Canada to answer these questions; and may involve surveys/interviews with decision-makers.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhD	MPH <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)
Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClin Sci	

Special Requirements:

Understanding of study designs would be an advantage but is not a necessity.

Nature of data: qualitative and quantitative.

Analytic techniques involved: Synthesis/systematic literature review, data extraction and statistical analysis, critical appraisal, surveys/interviews, Delphi process.

Supervisor Name:

- [Professor Tracy Merlin](#)

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
- Semester 2
- Semester 1 and 2

Assessing the clinical utility of diagnostic tests

Project Description:

Diagnostic tests are incredibly important as they identify who should or should not be treated for a particular disease or condition.

Unfortunately, there is a lot of information published on different tests that is often quite misleading, while there is often minimal evidence on whether a test will actually change the health outcomes of a patient.

This research program is about identifying tests where the information is not helpful for clinical practice and to pull it together in a way that will guide clinical decision-making and inform public policy.

The research could be conducted in any disease area.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Previous exposure to Health Technology Assessment would be an advantage but is not required

Nature of data: qualitative and quantitative.

Analytic techniques involved (one or more depending on final scope of the project): literature review and synthesis/systematic review, document and citation analysis, assessment of utilisation data, interviews and surveys of stakeholders (patients, industry, health professionals and policy makers).

Supervisor Name:

- [Professor Tracy Merlin](#)

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
- Semester 2
- Semester 1 and 2

Impact of the world-first 'personalised medicine evaluation framework' on decision making in Australia and overseas.

Project Description:

In 2013, Professor Tracy Merlin and colleagues developed the first methodological framework in the world for evaluating personalised medicines (a companion diagnostic genetic test and targeted cancer medicine) so that governments can decide whether they warrant funding by the tax payer and so lessen the burden on patients for whom many of these cancer medicines are unaffordable.

This framework was further developed over the ensuing years and adopted by the Australian government, and now the Belgian government.

As the creators of this framework we would like to know:

- whether the framework has allowed greater access to cancer medicines and their companion diagnostic tests in Australia.
- whether it is problematic or reasonably straight forward to implement by drug and genetic test companies who are seeking funding for their personalised medicine,
- whether it is problematic or reasonably straight forward for decision makers and evaluators to apply,
- how has it affected how assessments are conducted internationally,
- can the framework be improved or extended.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Previous exposure to Health Technology Assessment would be an advantage but is not required

Nature of data: qualitative and quantitative.

Analytic techniques involved (one or more depending on final scope of the project): literature review and synthesis/systematic review, document and citation analysis, assessment of utilisation data, interviews and surveys of stakeholders (patients, industry and policy makers).

Supervisor Name:

- [Professor Tracy Merlin](#)

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
- Semester 2
- Semester 1 and 2

What is the overlap between the Federal and State government in consideration of medicines for funding decisions? What bearing do two factors have on funding decisions – patient engagement and high unmet medical need?

Project Description:

Although the federal government's Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule (PBS) provides subsidised medicines for all Australians, many drugs have not been considered by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) for reimbursement. There are many reasons for this: the long-term clinical benefit of the drug may be uncertain, the drug may be too costly for its clinical benefit, or if the target patient population is small, pharmaceutical companies may not even bother lodging an application for reimbursement. Even if a medicine is reimbursed by the PBS, it is usually restricted to a very narrow patient population (known as an indication) where the PBAC can be certain the medicine represents good value for money. In these cases, decision makers in state health departments and hospitals, such as the South Australian Medicines Evaluation Panel (SAMEP), must decide whether they will fund medicines for uses outside the PBS indication.

While the safety, clinical benefit, cost-effectiveness and budget impact of a medicine is typically what is assessed for reimbursement, recently decision-making bodies have considered other factors, namely patient engagement and high unmet clinical need, when determining their final decision. We are interested in the impact of these two factors on the final decision (to recommend for reimbursement or not). This will help decision making bodies with the reimbursement of medicines where the level of conventional benefit (i.e. safety, clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness) is uncertain.

Reviewing policy documents, this research project involves:

- Reviewing drug indication pairs that were considered by SAMEP and subsequently the PBAC.
- Identifying funding approval conditions or restrictions placed on drug-indication pairs by SAMEP or PBAC.
- Reviewing patient or patient group engagement to the decision-making bodies for each drug-indication pair.
- Determining how often high unmet clinical need (i.e. no other treatment options) informed funding decisions.

Scope of the Project:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Understanding of study designs would be an advantage but is not a necessity. Nature of data: qualitative and quantitative. Analytic techniques involved: Synthesis/systematic literature review, retrospective review of health technology assessment and policy development, interviews, and surveys.

Supervisor Names:

- [Isaiah Luc](#)
- [Dr Drew Carter](#)
- [Professor Tracy Merlin](#)

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
- Semester 2

Semester 1 and 2

BetterStart | Health and Development

Lead Researcher: [Professor John Lynch](#),

[BetterStart](#) | betterstart@adelaide.edu.au

Our Research

Research conducted by the BetterStart group aims to generate better evidence to inform policy and practice to improve health, well being and development outcomes.

We have an interdisciplinary team with backgrounds in epidemiology, public health, nutrition, criminology, paediatrics, social work, biostatistics, and psychology. The BetterStart group have expertise in observational studies, randomised controlled trials, pragmatic trials, data linkage and translational research activities in South Australia, nationally and internationally.

Members of the group also conduct methodological research in biostatistics and epidemiology.

Systematic review of interventions to reduce child maltreatment. eg. including achieved power of studies.

Project Description:

Child maltreatment is associated with adverse outcomes for child health and development. As such, it is key to identify potential preventative interventions. This project will involve a literature review of studies evaluating interventions designed to reduce child maltreatment.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Desirable to have skills in critical appraisal and a familiarity with searching online bibliographic databases.

Supervisors:

Please contact the School of Public Health (sphadmin@adelaide.edu.au) for information regarding supervision for this project.

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
- Semester 2

- Semester 1 and 2

Child Protection policy, practice and investment

Project Description:

Chart the historical course of policy, practice and investments in child protection in SA.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClin Sci	MPH <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements: Nil

Supervisors:

Please contact the School of Public Health (sphadmin@adelaide.edu.au) for information regarding supervision for this project.

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
 Semester 1 and 2

Parental time investments in children: examining trends over time.

Project Description:

This project will use the 1992, 1997 and 2006 Australian Time Use surveys to quantify how much time parents spend in different activities with their children, and whether this has changed over time and changed differentially by socioeconomic group.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Students will have completed epidemiological and/or biostatistics courses, as relevant to this project. Familiarity with statistical software packages such as STATA.

Supervisors:

Please contact the School of Public Health (sphadmin@adelaide.edu.au) for information regarding supervision for this project.

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
- Semester 2

- Semester 1 and 2

Does high quality childcare at age 2-3 years affect cognitive and socioemotional outcomes in adolescence?

Project Description:

This project will use data from the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) to investigate whether the quality of formal childcare at age 2-3 years is associated with academic achievement and socioemotional behaviours at age 15 years and beyond.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClin Sci	MPH <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

To gain access to LSAC data, you will first need to: register with the ADA Dataverse using the Dataverse registration form. This will be done together with supervisor.

Supervisor Name:

- [Dr Angela Gialamas](#)

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
 Semester 1 and 2

PBS and MBS records to understand child and maternal health

Project Description:

Use MBS and PBS codes to develop indicators of childhood chronic health conditions.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements: Nil

Supervisors:

Please contact the School of Public Health (sphadmin@adelaide.edu.au) for information regarding supervision for this project.

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
- Semester 2

- Semester 1 and 2

The Kids Research Institute Australia

At The Kids Research Institute Australia our researchers are searching for answers to improve the health and wellbeing of children and families affected by some of the most devastating, complex and common diseases and issues. At any one time we have more than 200 active research projects and 700 staff and students that include laboratory scientists, clinicians, epidemiologists, bioinformaticians, statisticians, public health professionals and social scientists.

Investigating the relationship between food insecurity and early child development.

Project Description:

Increasingly, Australian families are experiencing financial challenges accessing food. Lack of adequate nutrition in childhood is linked with a number of health, development, and educational outcomes. One particular consequence for young children as a result of the current cost of living crisis is lack of access to breakfast. This project will utilise data from the Australian Early Development Census, a triennial national census monitoring the development of all children in their first year of full-time school (ages 4-6 years) across the country. Analysis will explore the association between arriving at school hungry and children's development across five domains; Physical Health and Wellbeing, Social Competence, Emotional Maturity, Language and Cognitive Skills, and Communication Skills and General Knowledge.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClin Sci	MPH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

- Interest in child health and development
- Undergraduate degree in public health, psychology or related field
- Quantitative skills (proficiency using statistical software)
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

Supervisor Names:

- [Alanna Sincovich](#)
- [Mary Brushe](#)

Location: The Kids Research Institute Australia (108 North Terrace, Adelaide)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
- Semester 1 and 2

Reducing breakfast skipping: A mixed methods exploration of School Breakfast Program attendance and implementation.

Project Description:

Breakfast is a key component of nutritional wellbeing throughout childhood and adolescence. A growing body of evidence has shown that children and adolescents who regularly skip breakfast are more likely to have poor engagement in learning at school, academic performance, as well as dietary and physical activity behaviours which go on to have negative consequences throughout the life course. Recent research in South Australia has highlighted that more than 1 in 3 children do not benefit from daily breakfast. Modifying this behaviour through School Breakfast Programs, which offer free or reduced-cost breakfast to children at school, has become a popular strategy in working to reduce food insecurity and health inequalities internationally. Investment into such programs in Australia is expanding, however there is limited understanding of participation in and implementation of School Breakfast Programs among in Australia. This project will conduct a mixed methods exploration of School Breakfast Programs in Australia, which may include a combination of analysis of existing quantitative data on program attendance, a desktop review of program implementation, and qualitative data collection regarding family and service provider experiences. Findings will seek to contribute knowledge regarding School Breakfast Programs are reaching children as intended and how implementation may be improved.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClin Sci	MPH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

- Interest in child health and development
- Undergraduate degree in public health, psychology or related field
- Quantitative skills (proficiency using statistical software)
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

Supervisor Names:

- [Alanna Sincovich](#)
- [Mary Brushe](#)

Location: The Kids Research Institute Australia (108 North Terrace, Adelaide)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 1 and 2
 Semester 2

RMNCAH Continuum of Care

Enhancing Preconception Care for Migrant and Refugee Women: Culturally Tailored Approaches to Improve Health Outcomes

Project Description:

This project aims to improve preconception care for migrant and refugee women through culturally sensitive approaches that address unique health needs and barriers. Recognizing the crucial role of preconception health in shaping maternal and child outcomes, this research will explore specific challenges faced by these communities, such as access to healthcare, language barriers, and cultural perceptions of health. By engaging with migrant and refugee women, healthcare providers, and community organizations, the project will develop tailored strategies and interventions designed to promote health equity, increase healthcare access, and enhance understanding of preconception health. Findings will provide actionable insights to inform public health policies and contribute to more inclusive, effective preconception care models in Australia and beyond.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Strong understanding and experience with both quantitative and qualitative data collection, analysis, and interpretation.

Supervisors:

Please contact the School of Public Health (sphadmin@adelaide.edu.au) for information regarding supervision for this project.

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
- Semester 2
- Semester 1 and 2

Positive Youth Development Programs for Improved Health Outcomes in Australia

Project Description:

This project will elucidate the impact of Positive Youth Development (PYD) programs on health outcomes among Australian adolescents. This comprehensive investigation seeks to dissect the interplay of PYD principles with physical, mental, and social well-being. This in-depth analysis aims to unravel the foundational tenets of PYD, elucidating interventions designed to holistically cultivate the personal, social, and health-related facets of youth development. From the instillation of resilience and self-efficacy to the promotion of health-conscious behaviours and positive social relationships, these programs represent a comprehensive approach to youth development. Discover the empirical underpinnings of these initiatives, transcending conventional health interventions to provide comprehensive determinants influencing overall adolescent wellness. Through meticulously designed activities, mentorship frameworks, and skill-building exercises, PYD programs desire to provide adolescents with the cognitive tools necessary for informed decision-making about health and lifestyle choices. Partake in an exploration through evidence-based practices, innovative methodologies, and community-driven initiatives that underscore tangible enhancements in health outcomes among the youth in Australia. Uncover the intricate role played by collaborative efforts among communities, educational institutions, and healthcare entities in fostering a conducive environment for PYD. The objective of this investigation is to illuminate the current scientific understanding of PYD programs in Australia and to stimulate dialogue and initiatives aimed at advancing the health and well-being of the nation's adolescent population.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Previous exposure to research would be an advantage but is not required.

Nature of data: qualitative and quantitative.

Analytic techniques involved: Evidence synthesis/systematic review, interviews, and surveys.

Supervisor Name:

- [Zohra Lassi](#)

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
 Semester 1 and 2

Peer-led Initiatives for Enhancing Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Outcomes in Australia

Project Description:

This research will explain the pivotal role played by peer educators in fostering positive outcomes and promoting informed decision-making among the youth. From dismantling stigmas to promoting cultural sensitivity, the proposed project will explore the intricate strategies employed by these initiatives. The study will examine the multifaceted dimensions of trust-building, accessibility, and empowerment, offering a comprehensive understanding of how peer-led interventions will shape the landscape of adolescent sexual and reproductive health. Join us on this upcoming journey as we unravel the dynamic narrative of youth-led empowerment and anticipate its far-reaching implications for the wellbeing of the next generation in Australia.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClin Sci	MPH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Previous exposure to research would be an advantage but is not required.

Nature of data: qualitative and quantitative.

Analytic techniques involved: Evidence synthesis/systematic review, interviews, and surveys.

Supervisor Name:

- [Zohra Lassi](#)

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
 Semester 1 and 2

Communities, People and Health Research

Lead Researcher: [Associate Professor Jaklin Elliott, Jaklin.eliott@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:Jaklin.eliott@adelaide.edu.au)

[Communities, People and Health Research Group | University of Adelaide](#)

Our Research

The Communities, People and Health Research Group (CPHRG) is interested in the social context of health and community perspectives on health and wellbeing. This encompasses engaging with the individuals, communities, institutions, and organisations that make up our communities.

Our research focuses on how communities respond to health issues and participate in healthcare, with a particular emphasis on public health. We aim to ensure that the views and experiences of community members, including patients, consumers, and other stakeholders, are included in health research, policy, and service delivery. We are particularly interested in the ways that culture and other social factors intersect with: health behaviours, health providers, health policy, and the provision of, and access to, health services. We explore how these factors influence health outcomes for people and their communities.

Our methodological expertise includes both qualitative and quantitative methods, and our researchers often use a mixture of these in the research context and in the evaluation of health services and policy.

Our research explores:

- public understandings of health and health interventions
- health in a diversity of communities and people
- health and health understandings in under-served communities.

Our research interests include:

- counselling and psychotherapy
- end-of-life care
- gender and health
- health promotion behaviours, risk management, and public health interventions
- health services research, including in the context of developing countries
- inclusive policy-making
- international health
- public perceptions of alcohol consumption and related policy
- public understandings of health and risk
- under-served communities including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with advanced chronic disease, and people from rural or remote communities

Our researchers have extensive experience working with international, national, and state governments as well as a number of different NGOs and community-based organisations.

School food: tackling plastic waste and nutrition.

Project Description:

Nutrition in childhood, particularly the school food environment has been the subject of much research over recent years. Similarly, the role of food and waste (both food scraps and packaging waste) is being increasingly included in the global climate change discussion. However, how the local food environment influences the nutrition choices of families, particularly in the context of food brought to school in lunchboxes is not well understood. Supermarkets invest heavily in promoting food for inclusion in lunchboxes, particularly in the back to school period, but little is known about 1) the nutrition content of these foods, and 2) the amount and types of packaging of the food included in these promotions. This study will explore the contents and packaging of foods promoted as lunchbox items.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClin Sci	MPH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements: Nil

Supervisor Names:

- [Dr Clare Hume](#)
- [Professor Caroline Miller](#)

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
- Semester 2

Semester 1 and 2

Wine mums' and 'beer dads': Social media and parents' alcohol consumption.

Project Description:

This project will involve an analysis of the dominant themes in social media coverage around parents' alcohol consumption (e.g., by looking at memes around drinking and parenting). The analysis will largely be qualitative, and may include content, thematic or discursive analysis, considering the patterns in social media and how they contribute to the social context of gender and adults' alcohol consumption. For an HDR project, additional studies would be added.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Experience with qualitative methods would be preferable.

Supervisor Name:

- [Dr Shona Crabb](#)

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
 Semester 1 and 2

Assumptions underpinning Australian Federal Alcohol Policy.

Project Description:

This project is examining Australian Federal Government press releases to make explicit the assumptions underpinning Australian Federal alcohol policy. There is scope for this project to focus on ethics, ideology, or another approach as appropriate.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Interest in qualitative methodology.

Supervisor Names:

- [Dr Shona Crabb](#)
- [Dr Emma Muhlack](#)

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
 Semester 1 and 2

How do illicit drug users find information about safe drug use? [Systematic Review]

Project Description:

This project aims to establish the state of current knowledge around how drug users find information about safe drug use via a systematic review. Depending on the scope chosen, it may be suitable for projects at multiple levels.

Scope of the Project:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Familiarity with qualitative analysis and basic knowledge of how to use academic databases for systematic searches would be helpful, but not necessary.

Supervisor Name:

- [Dr Emma Muhlack](#)

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
 Semester 1 and 2

Gambling elements in free-to-play mobile games.

Project Description:

This project examines and analyses the features of free-to-play/freemium games available to children in the Australian mobile app market and identifies gambling elements included in these games. Of particular interest is “Slotification”, referring to the practice of including features characteristic of slot machines (pokies) in interactive media in order to encourage engagement with, and/or spend on, those media (Browne 2020, pp.8-9). This project attempts to establish the scope of gambling practices/features which children may encounter in the game market segment of interest. [Browne, B., 2020. Gambling on games: how video games expose children to gambling. Canberra; The Australia Institute.]

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClin Sci	MPH <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Experience with qualitative research methods would be helpful, but not necessary.

Supervisor Name:

- [Dr Emma Muhlack](#)

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
 Semester 1 and 2

Communities, People and Health: Counselling and Psychotherapy

Lead Researcher: [Dr Alexandra Bloch-Atefi](mailto:Alexandra.bloch-atEFI@adelaide.edu.au), Alexandra.bloch-atEFI@adelaide.edu.au

Our Research

Counselling and Psychotherapy research focuses on issues related to the health and wellbeing of the community, specifically where this provides insight for counselling practice. Current topics of research include: hope in counselling, representations of counselling in the media, multicultural counselling training, counselling training, spiritual distress, support for children with parents diagnosed with PTSD, and art therapy in residential aged care.

Contemporary issues related to counselling diverse populations in Australia

Project Description:

Suitable research projects examine contemporary issues in counselling diverse populations in Australia, and have a focus on themes such as intersectionality, anti-oppressive practices, and cultural safety. Key areas of interest may include the role of technology in mental health support, the dynamics of power and privilege in the counselling relationship and the integration of trauma-informed care when counselling diverse populations. Innovative research methodologies, such as media analysis, and social media discussions could be employed to examine the representation of these topics in Australian media. Additionally, qualitative approaches like narrative inquiry or case studies could explore personal experiences and community-led initiatives.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements: Nil

Supervisor Name:

- [Dr Alexandra Bloch-Atefi](#)

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
 Semester 1 and 2

Recognising disenfranchised grief and loss following partner separation to inform counselling practice.

Project Description:

Following separation, the loss of relationship may be experienced as a grief response. However, numerous other losses may compound a person's experience of grief. Attig (2010) and Weiss (2008) note that the experience of loss and grief means the bereaved person's world has become profoundly different, requiring them to relearn their world. Identifying these differences, and how they might be framed as losses that might be actively grieved, may support the therapist in facilitating a more comprehensive and multilayered grief narrative for their client.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClin Sci	MPH <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units) MCP (research) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units)

Special Requirements:

Qualitative Research Methods in Health.

Supervisor Name:

- [Ann Ibrahim](#)

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
 Semester 1 and 2

Surrogate clients used in training of counsellors and psychotherapists.

Project Description:

The available research project will examine the literature exploring the use of surrogate clients in the training of counsellors and psychotherapists. Research surrounding the use of surrogate clients in other health related disciplines (e.g. medicine) has been well developed, however, the use of surrogate clients in the education of counsellors and psychotherapists is a new and emerging practice, requiring investigation regarding its efficacy and application. This project will importantly examine the use of surrogate clients in the training of counsellors and psychotherapists, through a systematic review of the available literature. The results will assist in further development of best practice principles and application to the student's educational experience.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Qualitative Research Methods in Health.

Supervisor Name:

- [Dr Matthew Doherty](#)

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
 Semester 1 and 2

Child and Adolescent Experiences of Trauma: A Jungian Approach

Project Description:

This study is interested in examining aspects of childhood and/or adolescent experiences of relational/developmental trauma through a Jungian lens, a psychoanalytic ideology. Breadth and specificity in the nature of the study would be considered at the time of application by the candidate.

Scope of the Project:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

An interest in the work of Carl Jung, with some working knowledge of Jungian ideology and theory.

Supervisor Name:

- [Dr Matthew Doherty](#)

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
 Semester 1 and 2

Communities, People and Health

Lead Researcher: [Associate Professor Jaklin Elliott, jaklin.elliott@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:jaklin.elliott@adelaide.edu.au)

Our Research

End-of-Life Care research focuses on a number of areas including

- end-of-life care in under-served populations
- death literacy within the community
- ethics and values that underpin end-of-life care and advance care planning
- community and professional perspectives regarding end-of-life care
- how the health system supports people approaching the end of their life
- public (including media) awareness and perceptions of death and dying, including the provision and place of care whilst dying

The military in the media.

Project Description:

This project involves an analysis of media representations of the military. A student may choose to focus on a specific aspect of this, including how serving personnel are represented during and after active service, potential gender or socio-cultural differences, changes over time or across different media sources, and representations of mental health issues and suicide associated with military service.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Qualitative research methods training

Supervisor Name:

- [Associate Professor Jaklin Elliott](#)

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
- Semester 1 and 2

Death and place in the media.

Project Description:

This project involves an analysis of media representations of how places of death and deaths in places are represented in the media. A student may choose to focus on a specific aspect of this, including potential gender or socio-cultural differences, changes over time or across different places of death, and representations of key stakeholders and processes.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Qualitative research methods training.

Supervisor Name:

- [Associate Professor Jaklin Elliott](#)

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2

Semester 1 and 2

Ethics in the news.

Project Description:

The media both shapes and reflects public opinion, sometimes drawing public attention to matters that have moral or ethical significance. This is often raised in the context of an alleged breach of some ethical code, or behaviour that appears to deviate from that expected of persons in the public arena. However, the invocation of an ethical lens can also serve other interests, and some ethicists have noted a 'commodification of ethics.' Little is known however about what issues or topics are deemed to have ethical import, and how these are depicted within the media. This project involves accessing, coding, and analysing print and/or online media reports that feature 'ethics.'

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units) MCP (research) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units)

Special Requirements:

Qualitative Research Methods in Health.

Supervisor Name:

- [Associate Professor Jaklin Elliott](#)

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
 Semester 1 and 2

Palliative and end of life care in the media

Project Description:

The media both shapes and reflects public opinion and is a significant source of information about health. This project involves an analysis of media representations of the activities, actors, and outcomes of decisions or events pertaining to palliative and/or end of life care. A student may choose to focus on a specific aspect of this, including representations of key stakeholders (e.g., politicians, clinicians, service providers, institutions, specific communities, dying persons, and their families); the provision, availability, or nature of palliative care; changes over time (e.g., associated with specific investigations or change in practice), or any other element of interest. The project could be scaled up or down to suit different research options, take a qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods approach, and include collection and analysis of data from diverse sources.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Some familiarity with the chosen analytical technique

Supervisors Name:

- [Associate Professor Jaklin Elliott](#)

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
- Semester 1 or 2

Communities, People and Health: International Health

Lead Researcher: [Dr Afzal Mahmood, afzal.mahmood@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:afzal.mahmood@adelaide.edu.au)

Our research

International Health focuses on practical research in countries in our region such as Indonesia, and PNG, particularly in the area of health services research, maternal and child health and quality of care.

Health services interventions for quality care to improve pregnancy outcomes, East Java, Indonesia.

Project Description:

The research focuses on factors affecting quality of antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal care in regions with persistently high maternal mortality. The research, with the public sector services, University of Airlangga and a department(s) of Health, is based in East Java and/or East Kalimantan. Staff training and initiatives at hospitals level are planned to address organisational, personnel, and personal factors influencing quality. An honours project may focus on health system response to direct and/or indirect causes of maternal mortality or on information and communication for appropriate referrals and transfers addressing delays in care.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Good knowledge of the determinants of health; access to care; quality of care concepts; motivated to travel and learn in cross-cultural setting.

Supervisor Names:

- [Dr Afzal Mahmood](#)
- [Professor Peng Bi](#)

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
- Semester 1 and 2

Communities, People and Health: SAHMRI Health Policy Centre

Lead Researcher: [Professor Caroline Miller, caroline.miller@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:caroline.miller@adelaide.edu.au)

Our Research

The SAHMRI Health Policy Centre conducts behavioural research, policy research, population monitoring and evaluation to inform public policy and population health interventions. The centre conducts independent research and provides evidence syntheses and expert advisory consultancies and actively engages with policy makers and non-government organisations for improved health outcomes.

Does nutritional information on school canteen menus influence parents' decisions?

Project Description:

This will be an experimental online survey to investigate parents' perceptions of the healthfulness of the food provided in the school environment, and whether nutritional information is a factor in their decision-making process when purchasing children's lunch from the school canteen.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClin Sci	MPH <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Good working knowledge of behavioural theory, survey design and statistics.

Supervisor Names:

- [Dr Kerry Ettridge - SAHMRI Profile](#)
- [Prof Caroline Miller - SAHMRI Profile](#)

Location: SAHMRI

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
 Semester 1 and 2

Environment and Health Research Group

Lead Researcher: [Professor Peng Bi, peng.bi@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:peng.bi@adelaide.edu.au)

Our Research

We are interested in how environmental and climatic hazards have an impact upon public health, and how to build health resilience within communities.

The Environment and Health Research Group conducts domestic and internationally significant research that has a pragmatic approach to public health problems. We are dedicated to providing translational evidence to the public, to decision-makers, and to the broader research community.

Our research interests are in environmental health, climate change, emergency public health event response (such as heatwaves) and population health. We also explore how risk, adaptation and preparedness messages and practices can provide coping mechanisms for environmental and climatic stresses within communities.

Our group has excellent collaborations with government organisations and we also convene the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility Vulnerable Community Network, which is funded by the Australian Government Department of Environment.

Impact of maternal exposure during heatwaves on adverse birth outcomes.

Project Description:

Population groups vulnerable to effects of heatwaves include pregnant women with potential for adverse birth outcomes. Stillbirths, preterm births and birth defects are significant public health problems associated with mortality and lifelong disability. Preventing mortality and adverse birth outcomes is critical in reducing long term health effects and social and economic burden. This project will assess the number of excess adverse birth outcomes attributable to heatwaves, and explore behavioural and adaptive responses of pregnant women during heatwaves. Findings will provide necessary information for antenatal care, health care service resource allocation and opportunities for prevention in the context of climate change. The overall aim is to examine the relationship between maternal exposure to heatwaves and the increased risk of stillbirths, preterm births and birth defects in babies born to women in the metropolitan region of Adelaide. In addition, this study will be the first to explore pregnant women's response to heatwaves, and will identify adaptation measures that could mitigate against the impact of maternal heatwave exposure on adverse birth outcomes.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input type="checkbox"/> PhD	MPH <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)
Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	

Special Requirements:

Students will have completed epidemiological and/or biostatistics courses as relevant to this project. Familiarity with statistical software packages such as STATA. Students should also have an understanding of qualitative research methods.

Supervisor Names:

- [Dr Adriana Milazzo](#)
- [Professor Peng Bi](#)
- [Associate Professor Lynne Giles](#)
- Dr Amanda Poprzeczny

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
- Semester 1 and 2

Healthy ecosystems, better human health outcomes?

Project Description:

It is the aim of this project to examine possible links between healthy ecosystems and healthy humans. Healthy ecosystems provide a variety of ecosystem services to humans, most obviously provisioning services (food, water, fuel, and shelter), but also regulating services (climate control, disease suppression) and cultural services (recreation and wellbeing). Biodiversity is fundamental to maintaining ecosystem functionality and resilience, and when biodiversity is adversely affected by human activities such as urbanisation, agriculture, and CO2 emission, ecosystem services can fail. Directly or indirectly, the maintenance of biodiversity can prevent the emergence and re-emergence of a variety of public health problems that include exposure to toxins, vector borne diseases, and lifestyle diseases. Surprising then, we still have a relatively poor understanding of the mechanisms linking ecosystem health to human health. The research approach will be multidisciplinary and could include a range of methods such as epidemiology, GIS, fieldwork, interviews, or questionnaires, depending on the skills and learning interests of the student. Recommendations for interventions will be developed to optimise the benefits to biodiversity conservation and human health concurrently.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Skills/experience in one or more of the research approaches detailed in the project description would be beneficial.

Supervisor Name:

- [Professor Philip Weinstein](#)

Location: AHMS (Adelaide Health & Medical Sciences Building, North Tce)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
 Semester 1 and 2

Health Workforce Planning Group

Lead Researcher: [Professor Caroline Laurence, caroline.laurence@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:caroline.laurence@adelaide.edu.au)

Our Research

The aim of the group is to provide an evidence-based approach to planning and maintaining the primary care workforce.

The Health Workforce Planning Group is a small but active group with collaborations locally, nationally and internationally.

Our research is interdisciplinary; it involves education, health economics, biostatistics and epidemiology. Our aim is to provide an evidence-based approach to planning and maintaining the primary care workforce. This work consists of research into health career decision-making, the role of education and training, and new approaches of determining future workforce requirements. Our recent projects include:

1. Developing and applying a needs-based planning model for the general practice workforce in Australia.
2. Estimating the future supply of nurses in general practice.
3. Understanding the cost and effectiveness of health workforce planning in Australia.

The Health Workforce Planning Group has a strong translational element, as evidenced by our contract research with key organisations in the health workforce—including Health Workforce Australia, the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency and Western Australia GP Education and Training. Our research has informed decisions and debates on general practice training incentives, rural bonded placements in medical school, medical application support, and marketing of rural practices to recent general practice graduates.

Health Workforce offers a number of research opportunities for students at a variety of levels.

Exploring the relationship between health provider supply and health outcomes.

Project Description:

A body of research undertaken primarily in the US has investigated the relationship between the supply of GPs and improvements in health status or health outcomes. These studies have found that, after controlling for sociodemographic measures and lifestyle factors, higher rates of GPs were associated with improved health outcomes such as all-cause mortality; mortality from heart disease, cancer or stroke; infant mortality; low birth weight; and self-reported health status. This project will assess the association between the supply of GPs and health providers and population health outcomes in the Australian setting. It will involve the identification of health outcome measures, the geographic unit of measurement and possible data sources. The relationship between supply and health outcomes will then be undertaken.

Scope of the Project:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Familiarity with excel and statistical software packages would be beneficial.

Supervisor Name:

- [Professor Caroline Laurence](#)

Location: AHMS (Adelaide Health & Medical Sciences Building, North Tce)

Research Project Start:

Semester 1

Semester 1 and 2

Semester 2

GP graduate tracking study 2018-2020 – SA.

Project Description:

The aim of this study is to examine the effectiveness of the AGPT program in addressing geographic maldistribution by determining the current practice location of GPs who graduated from the SA Regional Training Provider – GPEX between 2018-2020. Data on graduates will be obtained from the GPEX database and the AHPRA database. This study will be done in conjunction with GPEX and builds on a previous study.

Scope of the Project:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Familiarity with excel and statistical software packages would be beneficial.

Supervisor Names:

- [Professor Caroline Laurence](#)
- Dr Taryn Elliott - GPEX

Location: AHMS (Adelaide Health & Medical Sciences Building, North Tce)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1 Semester 1 and 2
 Semester 2

Genetic Epidemiology

Lead Researcher: [Professor Lyle Palmer, lyle.palmer@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:lyle.palmer@adelaide.edu.au)

Our Research

Professor Lyle Palmer leads an interdisciplinary program aimed at investigating the genetic epidemiology of common, chronic disease. In particular, we are actively investigating the genetic determinants of obesity, growth in early life and childhood, and various chronic diseases – with a current focus on obstructive sleep apnea. This team is also active in the area of precision medicine, and together with clinical and engineering collaborators is leading a program of methodological and applied research in precision radiology. Members of the group also conduct methodological research in biostatistics and epidemiology.

Genetic epidemiology of obstructive sleep apnea.

Project Description:

Investigate the genetic and/or epidemiological basis of obstructive sleep apnea using data from the Western Australian Sleep Health Study and potentially other international resources (available as part of the International Sleep Genetic Epidemiology Consortium).

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Some skills in quantitative analysis and data manipulation will be necessary. Students will have completed epidemiological and/or biostatistics courses, as relevant to this project.

Supervisor Name:

- [Professor Lyle Palmer](#)

Location: AHMS (Adelaide Health & Medical Sciences Building, North Tce)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
 Semester 1 and 2

Machine Learning in Medicine

Lead Researcher: [Professor Lyle Palmer, lyle.palmer@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:lyle.palmer@adelaide.edu.au)

Our Research

Professor Lyle Palmer leads an interdisciplinary program aimed at using the methods of machine learning, and in particular deep learning, to solve important clinical problems. Current research projects include:

- The use of routinely collected radiologic images and linked health data to predict clinically important outcomes.
- The use of screening mammograms from BreastScreen SA to better diagnose breast cancer.
- The use of ophthalmic images to predict the progression of glaucoma.
- The use of MRI images from UK BioBank to predict key clinical outcomes.
- The use of thoracic CT images to predict key clinical outcomes.
- Fracture diagnosis from x-rays.

Other research projects outside of these areas are possible, depending upon student interest and local collaborations.

The Machine Learning in Medicine Group is part of the Australian Institute for Machine Learning at the University of Adelaide. The team seeks to apply new technologies such as deep learning to medical images in order to solve clinical challenges across various fields of medicine. Our team is multidisciplinary, and includes epidemiologists, clinicians, and computer scientists.

Machine Learning in Medicine: Systematic review of chronic disease prediction using radiomics.

Project Description:

This project will involve a literature review of studies evaluating the use of radiologic images to predict chronic disease and related characteristics. This project would be suitable for a group of students.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClin Sci	MPH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Students will have completed epidemiological and/or biostatistics courses, as relevant to this project.

Supervisor Names:

- [Prof Lyle Palmer](#)
- [Prof Gustavo Carneiro](#) (School of Computer Science)

Location: AHMS (Adelaide Health & Medical Sciences Building, North Tce)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
 Semester 1 and 2

Machine Learning in Medicine: Optimising the analysis of breast screen mammograms.

Project Description:

This project will make use of digital mammograms and other data from Breast Screen SA. Data is available on over 300,000 women who have undertaken routine screening for breast cancer at BreastScreen SA. This project seeks to use the techniques of deep learning to develop an AI system to assist radiologists to diagnose breast cancer with higher sensitivity and specificity.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

Background in data analysis and data manipulation essential. Knowledge of programming desirable.

Supervisor Names:

- [Professor Lyle Palmer](#)
- [Professor Gustavo Carneiro](#) (School of Computer Science)

Location: AHMS (Adelaide Health & Medical Sciences Building, North Tce)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
 Semester 1 and 2

Health Evidence Synthesis, Recommendations and Impact

Lead Researcher: [Dr Zachary Munn, Zachary.Munn@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:Zachary.Munn@adelaide.edu.au)

Our Research

As experts in systematic reviews, guideline development, and evidence implementation, the Health Evidence Synthesis, Recommendations and Impact (HESRI) group creates trustworthy evidence and recommendations for impact on policy, practice, and decision-making.

Advancing the science of evidence synthesis: The Evidence Synthesis Taxonomy

Project Description:

People who make decisions regarding the health of individuals or a society need trustworthy information to support these decisions, whether they be about the effectiveness of a strategy, the burden of a disease, the accuracy of a medical investigation or the preferences and values of a population. To produce trustworthy evidence, we need to collate and synthesise all of the information available. This work will improve the science behind evidence synthesis and the quality of evidence synthesis efforts.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements: Nil

Supervisor Names:

- [Zachary Munn](#)
- [Danielle Pollock](#)

Location: RMP (Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza)

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
 Semester 1 and 2

CSIRO

Lead Researcher: [Gilly Hendrie, gilly.hendrie@csiro.au](mailto:gilly.hendrie@csiro.au)

What makes a behaviour change App ‘work’? An examination of preventive health tools

Project Description:

Australian adults eat about 4 ½ serves of discretionary (‘junk’) food each day, twice as much as recommended for a healthy diet. The Australian Government developed the National Preventive Health Strategy (NPHS) to improve the health and wellbeing of all Australians. The NPHS has set a measurable and ambitious target to “reduce the proportion of total energy intake from discretionary foods from >30% to <20% by 2030”. This will be hard to achieve without a focused effort on discretionary foods. Many people use digital tools to monitor and improve aspects of their health, and the number of these tools continues to grow exponentially. However, population-level dietary intake is not improving. Most focus on the ‘eat more’ message (e.g., more fruit and vegetables), rather than the ‘eat less’ message (e.g., reduce discretionary foods). We know what we are doing to promote a healthy diet is not working, but we don’t know why - is it the framing of the messages, the delivery mechanisms, or something about the behaviour itself? Understanding how other ‘do less’ preventive health initiatives have been successful will allow us to have success with this critical dietary challenge. The Australian Government has invested in several successful Apps to promote preventive health behaviours. Examples include: (i) ‘MyQuitBuddy’ (smoking cessation); (ii) ‘Daybreak’ (reducing/abstaining from alcohol); (iii) ‘Save the Date to Vaccinate’ (immunisation reminder); and (iv) SunSmart (sun protection). However, there is no Government-endorsed App supporting Australians to consume a healthy diet. Understanding how other ‘do less’ preventive health initiatives (such as smoking cessation and reduction in alcohol consumption) have been successful will allow us to have success with this critical dietary challenge. The purpose of this project is to (i) identify and critique digital initiatives endorsed by the Australian Government aligned to the other preventive health focus areas; and (ii) identify design features and strategies used to support behaviour change. In this project, you will search the App Store/Google Play for relevant mobile apps; download and review the technical quality of mobile apps (using the Mobile Application Rating Scale); and summarise the app content and design features, such as if they allow sharing, send notifications, have an App community etc. It is anticipated this will be submitted to a scientific journal for publication.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClIn Sci	MPH <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements: Nil

Supervisor Names:

- [Dr Paige Brooker](#) (CSIRO)
- [Dr Gilly Hendrie](#) (CSIRO)

Location: SAHMRI

Research Project Start:

Semester 1

Semester 2

Semester 1 and 2

Stretton Health Equity

Lead Researcher: [Joanne Flavel, joanne.flavel@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:joanne.flavel@adelaide.edu.au)

Our Research

Our researchers conduct highly relevant research that informs practice and policy development in Australia and overseas, in relation to the promotion of population mental and physical health and health equity, and the reduction of social and economic exclusion.

Stretton Health Equity's research focus is on what can be done about the underlying factors that determine the distribution of health and well-being outcomes. We produce research knowledge on why health inequities exist, what can be done about them and how population health overall can be improved. Our research includes that on primary health care, the commercial determinants of health, Health in All Policies, and assessment of policies in a range of areas including housing, urban planning, trade and social welfare in terms of their health and wellbeing impacts. We receive funding from the ARC and NHMRC and government agencies including Wellbeing SA.

Social determinants of health and health equity

Project Description:

Stretton Health Equity has projects available which focus on social determinants of health and health equity. These include the NHMRC Fellowship research Restoring the Fair Go which is using social epidemiology, policy analysis and a range of policy actor and citizen engagement methods to produce evidence that is so compelling that it will create political will for policies to reduce social, economic and health inequities.

Other areas of research concern building a healthy and sustainable food system, examining work and unemployment as social determinants of suicide and developing training materials for professionals about this topic, and examination of the commercial determinants of health and health equity.

These projects use a mix of quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods.

Scope of the Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Research Scholarship (~6 units)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honours (18 units)
HDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPhil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhD Other <input type="checkbox"/> MClin Sci	MPH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissertation (12 units) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis (24 units)

Special Requirements:

For quantitative student projects completion of PUB HLTH 7075 Introduction to Epidemiology and PUB HLTH 7074 Introduction to Biostatistics is required

For qualitative student projects completion of PUB HLTH 7078 Qualitative Research Methods is required

Supervisor Names:

- [Fran Baum](#)
- [Toby Freeman](#)
- [Joanne Flavel](#)
- [Connie Musolino](#)

Location: Napier Building

Research Project Start:

- Semester 1
 Semester 2
 Semester 1 and 2