**UQ Summer Research Project Description**

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| **Project title:** | **Exploring the usages and adaptation of asthma education tools and assessing the need for co-developing a culturally appropriate educational tool for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with asthma** |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | Student will be expected to work at least 20 hours per week (maximum 36 hours/wk) for six weeks.  Student is expected to work on-site ( UQ Poche Centre, Toowong) but it can be hybrid. |
| **Description:** | Background: Asthma is a prevalent chronic respiratory condition that disproportionately affects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations in Australia. Despite the availability of treatments, these communities experience higher rates of asthma-related morbidity and mortality.  Educational awareness is considered an effective strategy for improving healthcare delivery, particularly by aligning patient preferences and values with clinical decision-making in asthma management. As part of efforts to enhance asthma prevention, the National Asthma Council Australia introduced the ‘Asthma Action Plan,’ recommending that all individuals with asthma have a written plan. However, many individuals with asthma do not have an up-to-date written asthma action plan, despite these recommendations.  A recent study in Australia demonstrated that incorporating an audio-visual tool for asthma education in general practice clinics improved asthma management among non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. However, there is limited evidence regarding the types of asthma education materials used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services to manage asthma, beyond standard management guidelines. Furthermore, conventional educational materials may not effectively resonate within these communities' cultural contexts, potentially limiting their impact. Culturally tailored asthma education tools could improve the understanding and management of asthma in these populations.  Aim: This research aims to systematically review the current use and adaptation of asthma education tools by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services, and to assess the need for co-developing culturally appropriate educational tools for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with asthma.  Approach: The project will involve conducting a systematic review of the current use and adaptation of asthma education tools by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services as part of their routine asthma management practices. The student’s primary responsibilities will include systematically searching the literature across multiple databases and search engines, extracting and analyzing data, and contributing to the development of a draft manuscript. The findings of this study are intended for publication, with the student being credited as an author. |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | This summer program is expected to help students gain knowledge about the scientific process of conducting a systematic review, from study design to writing a scientific article. Students will also gain insights into Indigenous health services in Australia and how they incorporate Indigenous culture in managing various health issues, such as asthma. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is open to applications from students with a background or interest in either Health Sciences, Public Health, or Indigenous Health.  A basic understanding of scientific research design, and systematic review process including data extractions, and interpretation of data would be helpful. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr K M Shahunja |
| **Further info:** | Students may contact [poche.research@uq.edu.au](mailto:poche.research@uq.edu.au) for further information if needed. Students may also contact the supervisor at [k.shahunja@uq.edu.au](mailto:k.shahunja@uq.edu.au%20) for any clarifications. |