**UQ Summer Research Project Description**

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| **Project title:** | **Birthing in Our Community (BiOC) – Healthy Mums & Bubs** |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | Project duration is 6 weeks.  Approximately 36 hours per week will be expected.  On-site (Toowong) attendance is required, some remote working may be considered. |
| **Description:** | Birthing in Our Community (BiOC) is an Indigenous-led maternity care program designed and implemented in Brisbane from 2013. An initial evaluation of BiOC’s outcomes, published in the Lancet Global Health (2021), showed a significant reduction in preterm births in the region of between 43% and 50%, improvement in healthy weight babies, increased antenatal visits and an increase in exclusive breastfeeding at hospital discharge.  The Poche Centre has partnered with The Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH), and together we will be implementing the next phase of evaluating BiOC. The evaluation will assess clinical and wellbeing outcomes; as well as program acceptability, scalability, sustainability, feasibility and cost effectiveness. Our goal is to build the evidence base to support adaptation and implementation of BiOC programs in other urban Indigenous communities while also contributing to policy, systems, and practice changes in support of the Best Start to Life for First Nations mums and families.  This summer project will be aligned with supporting development of the qualitative methods and understanding other aspects of the program such as mum’s experiences.. The successful applicant will work closely with the Poche research team and there may be opportunity to visit with our partners at IUIH. |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | Publishable systematic review of literature on a relevant topic and a presentation to staff. |
| **Suitable for:** | The project can be adapted for the student’s level of program. A background in maternity/health services (+ research), qualitative research and/or Indigenist methods would be highly desirable.  Applicants with review skills/experience will also be highly regarded (e.g. refining search terms, searching health/medical databases, retrieving literature, using EndNote bibliographic software, screening records (Titles/Abstracts), data extraction and synthesis etc). |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Assoc/Prof Judith Dean & Dr Penny Haora (Co-Supervisors) |
| **Further info:** | Please contact Penny Haora ([p.haora@uq.edu.au](mailto:p.haora@uq.edu.au)) with any questions and/or to discuss your suitability. |