**UQ Winter Research Project Description**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project title:** | **Aboriginal Health Worker or Health and Wellbeing Worker – why names and roles matter.** |
| **hours of engagement & delivery mode** | 0.6-0.8 FTE for the duration of the UQ Winter Research program (4 weeks). Approximately 22-30 hours per week.  Flexible working arrangement – both on-site (IUIH Head Office, Windsor) and remote working. |
| **Description:** | This project aims to explore and describe the evolution, purpose and function of the Health and Wellbeing Worker – a designated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff role at the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH).  Involvement in the project will include working closely with Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff at IUIH to explore the Aboriginal Health Worker role in the context of the IUIH system of care, what it means and how it can evolve.  The Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH) Ltd is a not-for-profit, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organization which leads the planning, development and delivery of comprehensive primary health care to Indigenous communities of the South East Queensland Region.  Instead of the typical GP-led model of care, in response to community identified needs and a growing population, IUIH has implemented a new team-based model of primary healthcare, the patient-centred medical home, designed and delivered by and for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in SEQ. Based on emerging findings from an evaluation of this model of care, a new role has been developed which we are keen to explore - Health and Wellbeing Worker. The aim of this role is to walk alongside clients and their families in their health journeys.  Involvement in the project can be adapted to the students interests (to an extent) and may include:   * a review of the relevant literature * assisting with analysis of documents relating to the history and development of the health and wellbeing worker * assisting with qualitative data coding and analysis of existing staff interviews and client yarn data   This work will be conducted in collaboration with key team members and counterparts. The specific focus area of the project is to be determined pending project priorities and the students’ interests. |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | The key output from the project may include:   1. A summary of the literature in relation to similar roles and the history of the development of the Health and Wellbeing Worker. 2. Synthesise key findings from the above into a report for written and/or oral presentation, under supervision of experienced health services and qualitative researchers. 3. Contribute to group analysis working with Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff at IUIH to find meaning in the data and produce findings |
| **Suitable for:** | People interested in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing. Interest in qualitative methods.  The successful applicant will have the opportunity to learn from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing, being and doing. The applicant will get the most out of their placement if they come with an ability and willingness to be flexible, reflect on their own values and culture and humility to learn.  Previous experience with literature searches and qualitative research methods would be highly regarded. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Jenny Setchell, Senior Researcher (Qualitative), Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (Poche Partner Organisation) |
| **Further info:** |  |