**UQ Winter Research Project Description**

Please use this template to create a description of each research project, eligibility requirements and expected deliverables. Project details can then be uploaded to each faculty, school, institute, and centre webpage prior to the launch of the program.

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| **Project title:** | **Mapping the Cascade of Care for sexually transmissible infections and/or blood-borne viruses using surveillance data from Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services** |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | Project duration is 4 weeks, approx. 30 hours a week.  The placement is on-site at the UQ Poche offices in Toowong. |
| **Description:** | The ATLAS Indigenous Primary Care Surveillance and Research Network was established to better explain the longstanding disparity in sexually transmissible infections (STIs) and blood-borne viruses (BBVs) among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. ATLAS extracts and analyses de-identified clinical data to monitor STIs and BBVs from around 90 Aboriginal and Islander clinical services nationally and is required to provide both service-specific six-monthly reports shared via email and ongoing access to an interactive dashboard for each clinic to view and use its own data.  To eliminate STI and BBV epidemics as public health threats, the WHO recommends delivering existing prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care strategies within a healthcare continuum which is a comprehensive series of health service stages and is disease specific.  In this project, the student would be expected to perform descriptive analyses of de-identified electronic medical records to develop disease specific measures of all the key stages in the care continuum, e.g., testing, diagnosis, treatment initiation, follow-up care. This is referred to as the cascade of care. The cascade of care will then be used in multiple clinical services to identify key transition points and areas where engagement may be strengthened. |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | Deliverables for this project include a summary table of cascade indicators disaggregated by demographic characteristics to understand patterns of care engagement and simple charts or visualisations highlighting key transition points in the cascade of care. In addition, supporting documentation defining each of the measures would be required.  In this project the student would gain experience in public health data analysis and surveillance methods, learn how to map and visualise patient pathways through healthcare services, understand key factors influencing engagement and continuity of care related to STI/BBVs. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project would suit an MD or public health student with an interest in epidemiology, infectious diseases, or health services research. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Carol El-Hayek |
| **Further info:** | Please contact Carol El-Hayek, ATLAS manager [c.elhayek@uq.edu.au](mailto:c.elhayek@uq.edu.au)  Can be contacted by students prior to submitting an application |