

Position Description – *Research Fellow (Evaluation Manager School Food)*

Updated 3 July 2026

POSITION DETAILS

College/Portfolio	College of Health and Enablement
Organisational Unit	College of Health and Enablement
Supervisor (Title)	Professor of Nutrition and Dietetics
Classification	Research Academic Level B
Employment Type	Fixed-term, Full time for 36 months

POSITION SUMMARY

We are seeking a Research Fellow to lead high-impact research and evaluation initiatives in the area of school food. With a strong focus on settings-based nutrition promotion and policy-relevant research, this role will evaluate solutions to transform school food provision. There is a particular emphasis on a) maximising the impact of food security funding as a policy lever to deliver equity, health and learning outcomes for children experiencing disadvantage, and 2) innovative nutrition promotion programs to improve the foods accessible to children across the school day.

The role will drive forward a partnership between Flinders University and the South Australian Department for Education. The incumbent will independently manage and execute research guided by an annual work plan co-designed with the Department for Education. The role will also support the co-ordination and execution of an ARC Linkage Project 'Thinking Outside the Lunchbox'. The incumbent will independently provide high quality project management.

This research-intensive role includes conducting research independently and contributing to collaborative efforts to identify and pursue funding opportunities, publication opportunities, develop and submit high-quality academic publications, and ensure their research impact. The incumbent may also be required to coordinate and/or lead the activities of other staff, and Honours or HDR students, according to the University's policies, practices and standards.

UNIVERSITY EXPECTATIONS AND VALUES

All staff at Flinders are responsible for understanding their obligations and responsibilities as set out in the University's code of conduct and are expected to:

- demonstrate commitment to the University's values of Integrity, Courage, Innovation, Excellence and the underlying ethos of being Student Centred;
- contribute to the efficient and effective functioning of the team or work unit in order to meet the University's objectives. This includes demonstrating appropriate and professional workplace behaviours, providing assistance to team members if required and undertaking other key responsibilities or activities as directed by one's supervisor;
- promote and support an inclusive workplace culture which values diversity and embraces the principles of equal opportunity;
- perform their responsibilities in a manner which reflects and responds to continuous improvement;

and familiarise themselves and comply with the University's *Work Health and Safety, Injury Management and Equal Opportunity* policies.

A National Police Certificate which is satisfactory to the University will be required by Flinders University before the successful applicant can commence in this position.

Staff working in a health care setting are strongly recommended to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in line with the SA Health policy.

KEY POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Research Fellow is accountable for:

1. Coordinating the work of the Thinking Outside the Lunchbox project and to successfully deliver project milestones and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Additionally, contributing to the implementation of this workplan.
2. Co-ordinating the co-design of an annual workplan that meets the needs of partners, Flinders University and South Australian Department of Education. Additionally, leading the implementation of this workplan.
3. Making independent and original contributions to the planning and execution of research design, project management, research activities, implementation and analysis, writing up results and outcomes dissemination.
4. Contributing to the development and submission of research grants and funding applications.
5. Supporting and maintaining collaborative relationships with academic and industry partners, stakeholders at a local and national level.
6. Contribute to teaching in areas such as research methods, health promotion, public health, nutrition and Dietetics.
7. Supervise and mentor honours and Higher Degree Research (HDR) students, where appropriate.
8. Some out of hours work (including weekends) as well as rural SA, interstate and overseas travel, may be required.
9. Any other responsibilities in line with the level of the position as assigned by the Supervisor and/or the University.

KEY POSITION CAPABILITIES

- Completion of a PhD in a health-related discipline or equivalent research experience in a discipline relevant to Public Health, Health Promotion, Nutrition and Dietetics, Education, Psychology, project management of Complex research projects.
- Quality research outputs in terms of publications and presentations at a local and/or national level.
- Demonstrated experience in research methodology, specifically at least one of: (a) program evaluation, (b) school-based studies and (c) intervention research
- Demonstrated experience delivering project targets on time, to a high standard.
- Demonstrated ability to use independent judgement and initiative, under broad supervision, to manage, organise and coordinate activities
- Demonstrated excellent oral and written communication and interpersonal skills, including the ability to support professional and productive relationships with staff, students and stakeholders.