

Position Description – Student Cultural Wellbeing & Placement Support Officer (Education)

Updated 14 August 2026

POSITION DETAILS	
College	College of Medicine and Public Health
Organisational Unit	Clinical Sciences
Supervisor	Dean, Education (or Delegate)
Classification	Higher Education Officer Level 6 Choose an item.
Employment Type	Continuing, full-time (negotiable)

POSITION SUMMARY
The Student Cultural Wellbeing & Placement Support Officer delivers culturally safe, student-centred wellbeing support to students across all programs and campuses within the College of Medicine and Public Health. The role supports students to engage effectively with complex and potentially challenging curriculum content, including topics related to systemic racism, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, health inequities, social determinants of health and cultural safety. Working closely with academic, professional, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, the position provides proactive and responsive support before, during, and after teaching activities and clinical placements. This includes preparation, debriefing, cultural supervision, referral and connection to College and University support services, contributing to a safe, supportive, and respectful learning environment. The position provides culturally informed, non-clinical wellbeing support and guidance. It does not provide counselling, psychological assessment, or therapeutic intervention; where specialist or clinical assistance is required, the role facilitates timely referral to appropriate services.

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.

Flinders University is committed to providing a safe, respectful and inclusive environment, free from gender-based violence. Appointment to this role is conditional on the completion of required pre-employment checks and declarations, each of which must be satisfactory to the University. This includes a Gender-Based Violence declaration, in accordance with the National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence (2025), and a Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check.

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 Student Cultural Wellbeing & Placement Support Officer is accountable for:

- Providing culturally safe and student-centred wellbeing support to students across the College.
- Supporting students who experience cultural distress or emotional responses related to teaching and learning activities focused on systemic racism, health inequities, cultural safety, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, and the social determinants of health.
- Providing individual and group debriefing, reflective support and wellbeing check-ins before, during and following teaching activities and clinical, rural, remote, Aboriginal health and community placements.
- Preparing students for clinical, rural, remote, Aboriginal health and community placements, supporting culturally safe engagement, reflection, and readiness for potentially challenging or unfamiliar experiences.
- Providing culturally informed debriefing, reflection and support for students returning from clinical, rural, remote, Aboriginal health and community placements.
- Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to navigate cultural load, racism, culturally unsafe experiences and other cultural or emotional challenges.
- Working closely with the Aboriginal Health Education team to ensure student support approaches align with College's Aboriginal Health education priorities, cultural safety principles and emerging student needs.
- Identifying and communicating emerging student needs to inform improvements in pre-placement preparation, student support pathways, curriculum and College practice.
- Identifying student support needs and facilitating referral to appropriate College, University and external support services.
- Working collaboratively with academic, professional and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to develop and implement student support pathways.
- Contributing to the development of resources, processes and initiatives that promote student wellbeing, cultural safety and successful participation in learning and placement environments.
- Maintaining appropriate records and ensuring confidentiality, professional boundaries and compliance with University requirements.
- 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 degree with subsequent relevant experience and/or an equivalent combination of experience and/or education and/or training in social work, counselling, psychology, community services, Aboriginal health, peer support, lived experience support or a related discipline.
- Demonstrated ability to provide culturally informed, non-clinical support while maintaining clear professional boundaries.
- Demonstrated experience providing wellbeing, social or emotional support to diverse individuals or groups.
- Sound understanding of cultural safety, health inequities, systemic racism and the social determinants of health.
- Demonstrated ability to support individuals experiencing distress and to make appropriate referrals to specialist services.
- Well-developed interpersonal, communication and relationship management skills.
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively with a diverse range of stakeholders.
- Strong organisational skills, including the ability to manage competing priorities while maintaining confidentiality.
- Commitment to equity, inclusion, cultural safety and student success.
- Experience in higher education, health services or Aboriginal health settings would be advantageous.