

Position Description – Senior Research Fellow, Open Door

Updated 12/11/2025

POSITION DETAILS	
College	<i>College of Human Sciences and Culture</i>
Organisational Unit	<i>Sociology</i>
Supervisor (Title)	<i>Director of Open Door</i>
Classification	<i>Research Academic Level C</i>
Employment Type	<i>Fixed-Term, Full-Time</i>

POSITION SUMMARY
<p>Located in the College of Human Sciences and Culture and part of the Flinders University Institute for Mental Health and Wellbeing (FIMHWell), Open Door is recognised nationally and internationally for tackling real-world problems and delivering evidence to drive impact across the life course for veterans and first responders. Open Door and Military and Emergency Services Health Australia (MESHA) have formed a Strategic Alliance (the Alliance) focused on improving the wellbeing of service communities, through collaborative, co-designed research involving researcher and industry stakeholders.</p> <p>The Senior Research Fellow, Open Door will report to the Director of Open Door and work closely with the Senior Leadership Team of both Open Door and MESHA in improving the wellbeing of veterans and public safety personnel and their families.</p> <p>The Senior Research Fellow, Open Door will take a lead role in developing, managing and implementing collaborative research and evaluation projects, strengthening and expanding collaborative research activities under the Alliance between Flinders University and MESHA. The position will actively engage in new and current research, including attracting research funding, generating high-quality publications and conference presentations, and will have responsibilities in operations and engagement. The position will focus exclusively on research, research management and impact related activities, and will work collaboratively with other members of Open Door, MESHA and external partners in securing collaborative external grants and research contracts, along with achieving strategic objectives related to the Alliance.</p>

UNIVERSITY EXPECTATIONS AND VALUES
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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 <i>Work Health and Safety, Injury Management and Equal Opportunity</i> policies.

A Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check (NCCHC) which is satisfactory to the University will be required by Flinders University before the successful applicant can commence in this position.

KEY POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Senior Research Fellow, Open Door is accountable for:

1. Making a significant contribution to ethical, high quality and innovative research through sustained high-quality publications, external research grants and contracts, mentoring and developing early career researchers and presenting at the national and international level.
2. Take a lead role in developing and fostering collaborative research activities under the Alliance between Open Door and MESHA
3. Leading and coordinating research programs and projects, with a focus on the Alliance, including project management, research delivery, reporting, team mentoring and HDR Student supervision.
4. Taking a lead role in the identification, coordination and submission of collaborative applications for external research income related to the Alliance, with a focus on applying for competitive grants and tenders.
5. Leading, supervising and participating in high performing multi-disciplinary teams with an education and/or research focus and contributing to the development of a respectful, trusting and collaborative working environment
6. Developing and maintaining, in a leadership capacity, productive strategic local, national and international relationships, collaborations and networks with a range of stakeholders including industry, government and other external organisations.
7. Contributing to research leadership by fostering research excellence
8. Being actively involved in strategic planning and professional activities relevant to the promotion of research and in identifying opportunities to expand and grow research activity for the Alliance
9. Transforming research findings into practical, evidence-based recommendations and accessible outputs that drive systemic reform and inform policy and practice for government and other stakeholders.
10. Making a significant contribution, in a leadership capacity, to the management and administration of research in the College.
11. 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 or equivalent in sociology, psychology, public health, policy studies, history, or a cognate field.
- Demonstrated evidence of a strong research track record (for career stage) in an area aligned with research strengths in veteran and family wellbeing and the social determinants of health, including evidence of sustained high-quality publications and attraction of external competitive grants.
- Skills in qualitative and quantitative research methods.
- Demonstrated ability to develop and maintain effective research collaborations within the university and wider community including with industry, government and other organisations.
- Demonstrated experience in applying for and winning competitive grants and tenders, particularly Category 1 grants.
- Demonstrated experience managing large and complex research projects and delivering project targets in a timely manner.
- Demonstrated excellent oral and written communication skills and interpersonal skills, including the demonstrated ability to establish effective relationships with staff, students and industry nationally and/or internationally
- Demonstrated ability to use independent judgement and initiative, under minimal supervision, to manage, organise and coordinate activities required for the functioning of a research-intensive unit.
- Knowledge of the intellectual property and the commercialisation process in relation to a research environment.
- Demonstrated ability to mentor less experienced staff.
- Lived experience as a veteran, family member, or close connection to the veteran community (*desirable*).
- Experience with government and ex-service organisations (*desirable*).
- Familiarity with policy translation, knowledge exchange, and impact measurement (*desirable*).