

Position Description – Research Associate in Child and Adolescent Mental Health

Updated 19 June 2026

POSITION DETAILS	
College	College of Human Sciences and Culture
Organisational Unit	Mental Health and Wellbeing
Supervisor	Little Heroes Professor of Child and Adolescent Mental Health
Classification	Research (Academic) Level A
Employment Type	Fixed-term, full-time

POSITION SUMMARY
The Research Associate will undertake research in child and adolescent mental health under the direction of the Little Heroes Professor of Child and Adolescent Mental Health (or delegate). In working with the Professor and the child and adolescent research team, the incumbent will assist in leading the design and execution of several research projects related to child and adolescent mental health. The incumbent will also assist in supporting research staff and students who are involved in the child and adolescent research program, 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. <i>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.</i> <i>In addition, it is a requirement of this position that the incumbent maintain a current Working With Children Check which is satisfactory to the University in accordance with the Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016 (SA).</i>

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KEY POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Research Associate in Child and Adolescent Mental Health is accountable for:

- Assisting in leading quantitative and qualitative research projects in child and adolescent mental health by collaborating with the team leader and other members of the research team to successfully deliver project milestones and meet key performance indicators.
- Contributing to the planning and execution of research activities in child and adolescent mental health by generating new ideas, reviewing relevant literature and other sources of information to develop these ideas into competitive grant applications and active research projects, actively engaging in research activities including ethics approvals, recruitment, data collection and analyses while also disseminating research findings seminars, meetings and conferences.
- Assisting the team leader with the involvement of lived experience of youth and their families in research activities.
- Contributing to the co-ordination, planning and execution of research project activities necessary for ensuring effective collaboration with industry and health service partners.
- Contributing to ethical, high quality, informative and innovative research through activities such as research scholarship, research publications, external grant acquisition and thought leadership that aligns with the focus on child and adolescent mental health.
- Assisting principal supervisors with supervision of students including honours and post-graduate students.
- Establishing and maintaining collaborations in child and adolescent mental health within the University, and at State, national and international levels in order to improve research outputs, patents and publications.
- Some out of hours work (including weekends) as well as travel, may be required.
- 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 child and/or adolescent mental health, psychology, education, public health or related field.
- Demonstrated emerging research experience in terms of peer-reviewed publications and presentations at a national and/or international level in child and/or adolescent mental health.
- Demonstrated ability to critically review academic and non-academic literature in child and/or adolescent mental health.
- Demonstrated experience in quantitative research design and methodologies involving children and/or adolescents.
- Demonstrated emerging research interests in digital technologies (e.g., smartphone apps, AI) for child and/or adolescent mental health.
- Demonstrated ability to deliver project targets on time.
- Demonstrated well-developed interpersonal skills and the capacity to collaborate and engage with diverse stakeholders and industry partners related to child and/or adolescent mental health.
- Demonstrated ability to undertake collaborative research and establish and maintain effective relationships with team members.
- Demonstrated excellent oral and written communication skills in an academic environment.

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