

Position Description –

Director of Strategy, Flinders Ageing Research Alliance

Updated 09/04/2025

POSITION DETAILS	
College/Portfolio	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Organisational Unit	Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Supervisor (Title)	Director of Operations, Flinders Ageing Research Alliance
Classification	Higher Education Officer Level 10
Employment Type	Fixed-term, Part-time

POSITION SUMMARY
<p>This position provides leadership for the Flinders Ageing Research Alliance (the "Alliance"). The newly established Alliance is dedicated to supporting Flinders' exceptional researchers in health, aged care, social care, and palliative care. The Alliance aims to collaboratively expand research programs and undertake ambitious projects initiated by investigators, government, and other stakeholders to address national gaps in our understanding of how to care for older individuals. The Alliance is committed to advancing research, advocacy, and capacity building across various activities - designed to improve care and outcomes for older people.</p> <p>This role is fundamental for implementing an ambitious strategic plan and establishing sustainable, efficient systems for infrastructure development. The Director of Strategy will oversee the Alliance's daily operations. Working alongside the Director of Research and the Director of Operations, this role manages the Alliance's strategic planning, engages its members, and builds external partnerships. The goal is to propel the Alliance toward becoming a national leader and to establish it as a trusted resource for high-quality evidence that informs both care and policy.</p> <p>This position will be based at the Flinders Health and Medical Research Building and the South Australia Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI). The role requires independent planning and prioritization, with the incumbent responsible for developing work plans and proposals aligned with the broader goals of the Alliance. Performance will be evaluated based on the achievement of strategic objectives and established targets.</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

UNIVERSITY EXPECTATIONS AND VALUES

- 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.

SA: 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 Director of Strategy is responsible for developing and implementing a Strategic Plan for the Alliance in collaboration with the Director of Research and the Director of Operations, including:

1. Identify opportunities by supporting Alliance members in undertaking ambitious investigator, government or other stakeholder-initiated research that addresses national gaps in our understanding of how to care for older people.
2. Develop and implement strategies to establish the Alliance as a critical source for governments and other stakeholders for required research and development.
3. Advocate for Alliance members and identify opportunities for leveraging their expertise and research to inform national policy activities.
4. Establish, maintain, and report on close industry, community, and government relationships to facilitate research translation.
5. Develop and oversee the Alliance's collaborative infrastructure and effectively leverage these resources to support a wider range of national policy or activities that enhance the care of older people.
6. Drive support activities that can employ and adapt specific Alliance members expertise to support larger national activities.
7. As the initial point of contact for the Alliance, engage, establish and maintain relationships with Alliance members and all external stakeholders.
8. Strive to include and promote early and mid-career researchers and higher degree students.
9. Oversee the daily operations of the Alliance and its supporting staff. This includes its financial, human resources, and communication activities.
10. Some out of hours work (including weekends) as well as rural SA, interstate and overseas travel may be required.
11. Undertake any other responsibilities in line with the level of the position as assigned by the Supervisor and/or the University.

KEY POSITION CAPABILITIES

- Postgraduate qualifications and relevant experience or an equivalent combination of extensive relevant experience and education/training.
- Demonstrated strategic leadership and experience in formulating and delivering strategic plans, aligning organisational strategies, and balancing resourcing demands, preferably within a complex environment.
- Demonstrated evidence of establishing or managing a Research Institute, Research Centre or Large Research Group.
- Excellent relationship management skills including high level oral, written and interpersonal skills with demonstrated ability to effectively communicate and productively engage with internal and external stakeholders.
- Proven understanding of research activities including the development and management of research partnerships, research projects, research teams, resources, and research budgets.
- Proven ability to collaborate effectively with senior executives, sharing responsibilities and contributing to organisational success.
- Proven experience driving system and process improvements, collaborating effectively with external partners to achieve optimal business results.
- Demonstrated high level written and oral communication skills, including the ability to write reports and discussion/briefing papers on complex and sensitive issues for a range of audiences.
- Demonstrated ability to use independent judgement and initiative, under minimal supervision, to manage, organise and coordinate activities for which the Director of Strategy is responsible.
- Demonstrated high level leadership and management skills, including the ability to lead, develop and support others in a demanding and changing research environment.
- Knowledge of the intellectual property and the commercialisation process in relation to a research environment.