

Position Description – Research Associate in Rural Health

Updated 13 April 2026

POSITION DETAILS	
College	College of Medicine and Public Health
Organisational Unit	Rural and Remote Health
Supervisor	Director, University Department of Rural Health
Classification	Research (Academic) Level A
Employment Type	Fixed-term, full-time

POSITION SUMMARY
<p>The Research Associate will undertake research in Rural Health, contributing to the development of a strong evidence base that supports rural and remote health workforce outcomes under the direction of supervisor. The position will be responsible for assisting in leading the design and implementation of research projects, data analysis, and the preparation of high-quality publications and conference presentations.</p> <p>The role will contribute to the preparation of competitive applications for externally funded research and actively identify opportunities to expand the rural health research portfolio. Aligned with the objectives of the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training (RHMT) program and the University Department of Rural Health (UDRH), the Research Associate will assist in leading research that strengthens understanding of workforce development, student placement models, interprofessional learning, and strategies that support recruitment and retention of health professionals in rural and remote communities.</p> <p>The position will play a key role in embedding research within UDRH activity by evaluating program outcomes, including clinical placements, cultural education initiatives, and community-engaged workforce strategies, with a particular focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health contexts. Working across geographically dispersed UDRH sites, the Research Associate will ensure research is responsive to local community and service priorities, contributes to national RHMT evaluation and reporting requirements, and supports continuous program improvement and translation of evidence into practice.</p> <p>The position may be located at any rural SA campus.</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 and Excellence demonstrate consistent alignment with the University's strategic priorities through daily decisions, teamwork and behaviours that reinforce the strategic intent. 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 *Work Health and Safety, Injury Management and Equal Opportunity* policies.

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).

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 in line with the SA Health policy.

KEY POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Research Associate in Rural Health is accountable for:

- Assisting in leading the Project by collaborating with the Research Team to successfully deliver project milestones and Key Performance Indicators.
- Contributing to the planning and execution of rural and remote health workforce outcomes research by offering new ideas, reviewing relevant literature and other sources of information, actively participating in the production of data, contributing to the writing and editing of grant applications and attending seminars, meetings and conferences.
- Contributing to the coordinating, planning and executing the project tasks required to collaborate with industry partners.
- Contributing to ethical, high quality and innovative research and evaluation through activities such as scholarship, quality publication, external grant acquisition and presentations that aligns with the RHMT program areas of research strength and focus.
- Assisting principal supervisors with supervision of postgraduate students.
- Establishing and maintaining collaborations within the University, and at State, national and international levels in order to improve research outputs, patents and publications.
- Engage and build relationships with industry and community to ensure that all research results are communicated and adopted by industry, community and/or government.
- Any other responsibilities in line with the level of the position as assigned by the Supervisor and/or the University.
- Some out of hour's work (including weekends) as well as rural SA, interstate and overseas travel, may be required, a current SA Driver's Licence is essential.

KEY POSITION CAPABILITIES

- Completion of a PhD or significant progress towards completion of a PhD in Rural Research.
- Demonstrated emerging research experience in terms of publications and presentations at a national and/or international level in a relevant field.
- Demonstrated experience in qualitative research methodology.
- Demonstrated ability to deliver project targets on time.
- An understanding of contemporary issues in healthcare, patient care and delivery of health policies.
- Demonstrated well-developed interpersonal skills and the capacity to collaborate and engage with diverse stakeholders and industry partners.
- Demonstrated ability to critically review the literature in relevant fields.

- Demonstrated ability to undertake collaborative research and establish and maintain effective relationships with staff and industry.
- Demonstrated excellent oral and written communication skills in an academic environment.

FUNIVAL

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Agenda 2035

