## **Brain injury and violent behaviour – a data linkage approach to maximise positive intervention outcomes**

### Supervision Team

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### The Opportunity

This project has the potential to improve outcomes for persons diagnosed with an ABI/TBI, through the identification of predictors of positive outcomes (e.g., type of intervention, length of intervention, combination of interventions), as well as to identify the risk factors that may lead to a justice outcome (e.g., involvement with police at an early age, etc.) to allow for early identification and mitigation of these risks.

### The Role

We have a PhD stipend for a student to use linked data from different sources (e.g. police, hospital and courts) to better understand the impact of Acquired Brain Injury and Traumatic Brain Injury (ABI/TBI) on justice related outcomes, and highlight the most effective interventions, timing of interventions and appropriate contact agencies to intervene to ensure the highest chance of positive outcomes. Using a sample of persons diagnosed with an ABI or TBI at Barwon Health, the following aims will be examined:

1. To better understand the impact of ABI/TBI on justice related outcomes (i.e., police contacts, incarceration, youth justice contact), including the role of substance use and related treatment, and mental health and related treatment. More specifically, we will study two subgroups:
   * Violent subgroup: Using a sample of persons arrested for violent offences (who also have an ABI/TBI), we will examine the impact of ABI/TBI on subsequent violent behaviour.
   * ABI/TBI subgroup: Using a sample of persons who have been diagnosed with ABI/TBI, we will identify trajectories of violence (covering before and after their diagnosis). We will identify the incidence, timing, and nature of violence, including the identification of static and dynamic predictors of violence.
2. To identify effective justice and health-related interventions for individuals with ABI/TBI; including the intensity and duration of intervention required for significant pathway change, and the importance of intervention completion.

The PhD student will be well-supported within a multidisciplinary team from both academic and clinical backgrounds. The PhD stipend is provided by Deakin University, and the successful applicant will be enrolled at Deakin University.

### How to Apply

Interested persons must:

* Contact Dr Ashlee Curtis at [ashlee.curtis@deakin.edu.au](mailto:ashlee.curtis@deakin.edu.au) to discuss the project
* Submit their CV and covering letter to [ashlee.curtis@deakin.edu.au](mailto:ashlee.curtis@deakin.edu.au) by November 12, 2021 addressing the following selection criteria:
  + Must have an Honours degree (H1) or equivalence in a related discipline (see https://www.deakin.edu.au/research/research-degrees-and-PhD/research-degree-entrypathways for further information on minimum entry requirements)
  + A genuine interest in psychology, and specifically in forensic psychology and/or neuropsychology, and/or aggression
  + Demonstrated experience in one or more fields including: psychology, forensic psychology, neuropsychology, aggression, or similar.
  + Self-management and high personal motivation
  + High level of organisational skills
  + Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
  + Be able to attend weekly meetings in Geelong