

The Opportunity

Recommendations from the recent Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System regarding transformation of the mental healthcare system include the imperative of embedding the voice of people with a lived experience of the mental health system in the reform of mental healthcare.

Barwon Health's Mental Health, Drugs and Alcohol Services (MHDAS) is the sole provider of public mental health services for Geelong and surrounding regions, comprising approximately 305,000 people. MHDAS strongly supports the engagement of people with lived experience in healthcare reform, and, as such, is focused on embedding the principles of co-design within service development, as articulated in state and national mental health plans, and in the Royal Commissions' recommendations.

Drawing on the expertise of a multidisciplinary supervisory panel that includes the Clinical Director of MHDAS, and a Deakin University academic from (i) the Social Work and (ii) Social Inclusion research teams, the PhD student will address the specific recommendation from the Royal Commission to eliminate of the use of restrictive practices in mental healthcare facilities, specifically the MHDAS.

Healthcare practitioners, including from allied health fields, are strongly encouraged to apply.

The Role

This PhD will explore a range of research methodologies (for example qualitative, quantitative, mixed-methods and evaluative methodologies) and generate practical, feasible and sustainable evidence-based strategies, co-designed with those with a lived experience. The research will support MHDAS in reducing, and ultimately eliminating, the use of restrictive practices within mental healthcare practices.

The PhD stipend is provided jointly by Deakin University and Barwon Health, with the successful applicant enrolled via Deakin University. Project funding of \$10,000 is also provided in the first year by the Barwon Health Foundation, with opportunity to apply for further project funding in years 2 and 3.

How to Apply

Interested persons must:

- contact Renae Carolin at renae.carolin@barwonhealth.org.au or on 0422 521 422 **prior to 27th August 2021** to discuss the PhD stipend on offer, the eligibility requirements and options to maintain a clinical or healthcare worker role concurrent with undertaking PhD studies, and
- submit a covering letter to renae.carolin@barwonhealth.org.au **prior to 1st October 2021** addressing the following selection criteria:
 - must have an Hons degree (H1) or equivalence in a related discipline (see <https://www.deakin.edu.au/research/research-degrees-and-PhD/research-degree-entry-pathways> for further information on minimum entry requirements)
 - a genuine interest in mental healthcare reform and the experiences of individuals with a lived experience of mental healthcare
 - be enthusiastic to work within the healthcare setting on a multidisciplinary project
 - demonstrated experience in one or more fields including: mental healthcare delivery, psychology, social work, or similar
 - self-management and high personal motivation
 - high level of organisational skills
 - excellent communication and interpersonal skills