

**PhD opportunity – Qualitative Research to understand health trajectories
Life Course Program: Aboriginal Birth Cohort study**

We are seeking a talented PhD candidate to undertake a qualitative research PhD at Menzies School of Health Research, Darwin. The successful candidate will need to be available to commence in semester 1, 2020.

This qualitative research project is one component of the Aboriginal Birth Cohort (ABC) study, recognised as one of the longest running and largest Indigenous cohort studies in Australasia. The ABC study provides fundamental knowledge on the progress of health and development of disease in Aboriginal babies from birth, through childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. The core objective is to examine the effects of early life events on later health and disease. Study participants were born at Royal Darwin Hospital between 1987 and 1990. Biomedical data and information about health behaviours and mental health have been collected from participants in four waves of data collection.

The National Health & Medical Research Council has funded the project to complete a fifth wave of data collection from 2018-2022 when participants are aged between 28-32 years. Data are being collected in over 40 urban and remote communities across the Top End. For the first time, this wave will include a complementary qualitative study. The aim is to provide important information on the key factors which have shaped the physical and mental wellbeing of participants over the life course. A varied sub-sample of participants will be invited to participate in detailed interviews to explore the trajectories and key turning points that have shaped health behaviours including physical activity, nutrition, tobacco, alcohol, stress, resilience and coping.

The successful applicant will have the opportunity to undertake field work in a range of selected communities. The overall project is led by Associate Professor Gurmeet Singh. This PhD will be under the supervision of Dr Marita Hefler. For further information, email marita.hefler@menzies.edu.au.

The successful applicant will receive funding equivalent to a scholarship initially, to enable them to apply for a RTP scholarship. Additional top up funding for the scholarship of up to \$10,000 per year for up to 3 years will also be available to successful candidates.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander candidates are strongly encouraged to apply

Eligibility:

- Enrolled in or satisfy the admission requirements for Doctor of Philosophy program.
- Eligibility to apply for an RTP scholarship.
- Available to commence/enrol in Semester 2, 2019.

To apply for this exciting opportunity, you will need to provide the following:

1. Cover letter detailing why this project is of interest
2. [Menzies Scholarship application form](#)
3. Current CV including
 - a. Academic qualifications
 - b. Previous experience in research, including publications, posters or presentations
 - c. Previous experience in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health
 - d. Any other relevant information

Please forward your application to marita.hefler@menzies.edu.au. **Applications close 31 October.**