



## The Hearing for Learning Initiative-a stepped wedge cluster randomised trial to evaluate a model of primary health care workforce enhancement through local training and job creation

CHILD HEALTH

PhD

The goal of the project is to improve ear and hearing services for First Nations children in remote and rural communities of the Northern Territory. Ear disease and associated hearing loss is devastating the lives of many children and families. Children with hearing loss and sound deprivation experience communication and language difficulties, isolation, discrimination, behavioral problems, and social and educational disadvantage. Yet ear disease is an infection that is preventable.

This project aims to train local community members in the skills needed to use screening equipment (otoscopy and tympanometry, and basic hearing tests). This saves health professionals time, can be done in the home, school, or clinic. Local Ear Health Facilitators have potential to provide a sustainable, culturally appropriate service. The student will join the HfLI to evaluate the workforce model. There are opportunities to apply quantitative methods, qualitative, or a mixed methods approach. There is potential to evaluate the effectiveness (general, health, and economic impacts) of all phases of the HfLI, from initial community consultations, implementation, and effectiveness of the training component, and transition to employment in the health service.

The student will visit remote communities to conduct structured and in-depth interviews with trainees, the Community Reference Group members, health service and school staff, parents, and children about their perspectives of the workforce model. The outcomes will be publishable and will inform policy regarding upscaling and funding of this model Territory-wide and across different health issues.

Amanda Leach

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# Eligibility Criteria and Scholarship Provisions

**Eligibility:** The successful applicant must have experience in health service delivery, preferably primary health care, willingness to fly in small planes and to travel to remote communities as part of a team up to six times per year for up to 2 weeks per trip.

The applicant may also have 4WD, first aid, education (teaching or training) qualifications.

**Scholarship Provisions:** The applicant will be required to secure a primary scholarship (RTP, NHMRC)

## **Application Process:**

Applicants should submit the following:

- Brief summary of why they want to complete the project
- Current CV
- Copies of certified academic transcripts
- Proof of Residency (not required for Australian citizens)

All applications should be submitted to Amanda Leach ([amanda.leach@menzies.edu.au](mailto:amanda.leach@menzies.edu.au))

The 2023 CDU RTP scholarship round closes for International students on 30th September 2022 and Domestic students on 31st October 2022.

<https://www.cdu.edu.au/research-and-innovation/higher-degree-research/scholarships>