

Improving cardiovascular disease risk prediction in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

WELLBEING AND PREVENTABLE CHRONIC DISEASES

PhD

The Australian Stroke and Heart Research Accelerator (ASHRA) Centre will transform the field of cardiovascular research in Australia by bringing a new sector-wide focus on clinical impact and entrepreneurship. Menzies School of Health Research is a core partner of ASHRA and is leading research that will improve cardiovascular disease risk prediction in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Menzies is offering a generous postgraduate scholarship to support outstanding candidates to undertake a research higher degree in cardiovascular disease screening and prevention.

The overall aim of the scholarship and the associated research program is to improve primary health clinical tools used in the early detection of cardiovascular disease among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Cardiovascular disease substantially affects the health and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, leading to excess risk of hospitalisation and premature mortality.

Cardiovascular diseases in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people frequently co-exist with diabetes and chronic kidney disease and emerges at a younger age and is more common in females than males. This project aims to improve the early detection of CVD among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, by improving the risk algorithms used to identify individuals at high risk of cardiovascular disease. Earlier detection of high-risk individuals provides opportunities for preventative CVD risk management, including prescription of medicines and tailoring advice on lifestyle and nutrition.

The PhD student will play a key role in analysing data from large epidemiological cohorts and health administrative databases. The student will draw on their high-level skills and experience in epidemiology and biomedical statistics within the Stata Statistical Software environment. In addition, the student will work collaboratively with team members, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and stakeholders to translate research findings to clinical practice and policy.

Eligibility Criteria and Scholarship Provisions

Eligibility: The successful applicant will meet the eligibility criteria for admission to a Doctor of Philosophy degree.

Prospective students will be encouraged to apply for other prestigious postgraduate scholarships.

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)

Applicants who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander are strongly encouraged to apply.

All applications should be submitted to Dr Elizabeth Barr (elizabeth.barr@menzies.edu.au)