



Maternal mental health hospitalisation during the first year of the postnatal period and its effect on adverse child health, development, and educational outcomes

CENTRE FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

PhD

Common mental health disorders (CMD's) in the perinatal period (during pregnancy and after birth) are highly prevalent with a global prevalence ranging from 15% to 65%, with up to 20% in Australia. Epidemiological studies reported that mental health disorders during pregnancy are associated with various adverse perinatal outcomes and later psychopathology. There is also growing evidence about the link between pre-pregnancy psychosocial risk factors and adverse birth and childhood developmental outcomes that also continue to manifest through the childhood and adolescent period.

Australian studies that investigated the link between maternal mental health prior to pregnancy and its adverse pregnancy, birth, and childhood outcomes are scarce, whereas the context in the NT is unknown. This knowledge is crucial to strengthen the national policy on early screening and intervention of common maternal mental health disorders prior to pregnancy and during the perinatal period in the territory.

In response to this, researchers in the Centre for Child Development and Education are conducting different studies on pre-pregnancy and perinatal mental health-related admission and its adverse pregnancy and birth outcomes using the NT administrative linked data. The first part of this PhD program will do a systematic review of the effect of pre-pregnancy perinatal mental health disorders on adverse pregnancy and birth outcomes. The subsequent investigation will assess the effect of maternal mental health admission during the postnatal period on adverse childhood health, development, and educational outcomes.

Dr Abel Dadi

abel.dadi@menzies.edu.au

Eligibility Criteria and Scholarship Provisions

Eligibility: The applicant should be eligible to enrol in a PhD
Apply for a Higher Degree by Research | Charles Darwin University (cdu.edu.au)

Scholarship Provisions: A scholarship will be provided as part of this project.

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 Dr Abel Dadi - (abel.dadi@menzies.edu.au)