



The political economy of primary health care financing in remote Australia

Master by Research

PhD

The NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence for Strengthening Health Systems in Remote Australia (CRESTRA) is developing tools and strategies to reduce remote health service funding inequities and their consequences for the health of remote communities and the sustainability of primary health care (PHC) services. Equitable funding models that overcome the 'inverse-care' situation characterising remote health services in Australia (wherein people who are most in need of health care are least likely to receive it) underpin the viability of high quality comprehensive PHC. However, despite ongoing efforts to develop the evidence base and advocate for greater equity, a substantial funding deficit persists.

A key component of CRESTRA's work involves determining the quantum of equitable funding required by remote PHC services and efficient mechanisms to allocate funds. However, there are limits to the extent to which technical strategies can transform financing to support efficient and equitable PHC. A political economy approach is needed to examine evolving social, political and economic conditions that act as enablers of barriers to effective PHC financing reform.

Working with CRESTRA partners, the student will examine the political economy of PHC financing in remote Australia. Using social science methodologies, the project will consider steps of the policy cycle to examine how political, social and economic conditions shape financing for remote PHC. The candidates work will inform critical knowledge translation strategies in CRESTRA that aim to improve the integration of research findings into

policymaking processes in the Northern Territory and nationwide, enabled by national and international research and policy networks.

Eligibility Criteria and Scholarship Provisions

Eligibility: The successful applicant will be eligible to undertake a Master by Research or Doctor of Philosophy program.

Scholarship Provisions: The successful applicant will be offered a CRESTRA scholarship or top-up scholarship to assist with the direct cost of research.

Other research scholarship opportunities are available through Charles Darwin University.

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

Application Process:

Applicants should submit the following to Alexandra Edelman:

(Alexandra.edelman@menzies.edu.au)

- Brief summary of why they want to complete the project.
- Current CV with 2x reference contacts
- Copies of certified academic transcripts
- Proof of residency (not required for Australian citizens)

For more information on scholarships and how to apply follow the link below:

<https://www.cdu.edu.au/research-and-innovation/future-research-students>