# Position description

Burnet
reach for the many

# Senior Laboratory Scientist

**Classification**: SR06, plus super and salary packaging

**Contract type**: Fixed term – 12 month

**Time fraction**: Full-time

**Location**: 85 Commercial Road, Melbourne, 3004

**Reports to**: Lindi Masson

**Working Group:** Global Women's and Newborn's Health

**Discipline: International Development**

**Direct reports**: Nil

**Last updated**: November 2026

## Position snapshot

The purpose of this position is to support the discovery and laboratory sciences activities of the Global Women's and Newborn's Health Group. The appointee will assist with activities across multiple research projects. The role will also include supervision and assistance with implementation of biobanking and diagnostics evaluation studies with our partners in multiple countries, laboratory assays, laboratory management, project reporting and new grant applications. The goals are to improve our understanding of adverse sexual and reproductive health outcomes in women and girls, identify novel biomarkers for diagnostics development, and characterize mechanisms through a variety of laboratory studies. Specifically, the role will support the laboratory activities of two of our major research platforms:

- Maternal health Advancement Through Rapid Innovation and eXploration (MATRIX) is our platform for research, development and evaluation of innovative diagnostics and therapeutics in pregnancy. It comprises 52 facilities in Ghana, Kenya, South Africa and India, and includes the sites in which seven ongoing research studies are being conducted. This platform focus includes pre-eclampsia, anaemia, gestational diabetes, foetal growth restriction and preterm birth and is establishing a biobank for future studies.
- Our biomarker discovery and diagnostics development platform utilises proteomics to identify novel disease biomarkers for the development of low-cost diagnostics and risk screening tools. Our platform leverages partnerships with clinical research organisations across seven countries, four mass spectrometry facilities and three biotechnology companies. We are leading six proteomics studies and supporting three other research groups at Burnet to progress their studies to address diverse priorities including preterm birth, pre-eclampsia and bacterial vaginosis.

## Key responsibilities

1. Project Management
    - Coordinate and manage laboratory components of research studies, ensuring activities are delivered in accordance with study protocols, timelines and quality requirements.
    - Prepare and contribute to study reports, proposals, technical documentation, presentations and other project deliverables.

- Coordinate, prepare and submit ethics documentation, including applications, renewals, amendments, and final reports

2. Laboratory Management
    - Lead the development and implementation of laboratory SOPs and risk assessments.
    - Lead the implementation and maintenance of the laboratory QMS including quality-control processes, documentation, non-conformance management and corrective and preventive actions. Support laboratory health and safety activities.
    - Co-ordinate the day to day running of the laboratory including equipment maintenance and calibration.
    - Oversee the procurement and management of lab reagents, chemicals and equipment including appropriate inventory control.
    - Co-ordinate material transfer agreements, import/export permits and shipping of biological specimens

3. Laboratory Assays
    - Provide scientific and technical oversight of laboratory assays and research workflows, including optimisation, troubleshooting and quality control.
    - Supervise and assist with laboratory activities that include:
        - Clinical sample processing and storage
        - Sample processing for (meta)proteomics
        - Isolation and culture of bacteria and fungi from clinical samples
        - Characterisation of bacteria and fungi
        - Immunological assays including Luminex and ELISAs

4. Data analysis
    - Conduct and contribute to the analysis of laboratory and research data
    - Supervise and support staff and students with their data analysis, interpretation and presentation of findings.

5. Research Outputs
    - Lead and contribute to the preparation of presentations, manuscripts and other research outputs.

6. Grants
    - Contribute to the development of research proposals and competitive grant applications.
    - Manage and coordinate the grant submission process.

7. People and responsibility
    - Supervise, mentor and support laboratory staff, research staff and students.
    - Train staff and students in, laboratory procedures, data analysis, manuscripts and dissertations.

### Training

- Responsible for completing all required training in line with the position / role

## Key selection criteria (maximum of 8 to meet accessibility guidelines)

Qualifications / experience / knowledge / attributes

1. B.Sc (Honours) in biochemistry, microbiology or a related discipline (essential)
2. Ph.D in women's sexual and reproductive health biomedical research or closely related field (essential)
3. Minimum of 6 years' post PhD laboratory experience, with demonstrated expertise in clinical research laboratory practices, including biospecimen, biobanking, laboratory quality assurance, assay performance and interpretation, and accurate laboratory documentation (essential)
   Description
4. Demonstrated experience supervising, mentoring and training laboratory staff, research staff and/or students, including supporting adherence to laboratory procedures and quality standards. (essential)
5. Strong analytical and problem-solving skills, with demonstrated ability to investigate laboratory, assay or operational issues, interpret complex information and implement practical solutions (essential)
6. Exceptional organisational skills, with demonstrated ability to prioritise activities, coordinate laboratory workflows, manage competing deadlines and maintain a high level of accuracy and attention to detail. (essential)
7. Demonstrated initiative, adaptability and flexibility, including the ability to manage changing priorities and contribute effectively across multiple research projects. (essential)
8. High-level communication and interpersonal skills, with demonstrated ability to communicate technical information clearly and work collaboratively with laboratory, clinical, research and other multidisciplinary stakeholders.(essential)
9. Ability to work independently while contributing effectively to a large, multi-disciplinary team focused on achieving shared goals. (essential)

## About Burnet Institute

**Burnet Institute is one of Australia's leading medical research and public health institutes.**

We believe all people should have access to medical research and health programs, no matter who they are or where they live.

Since our beginnings at the Fairfield Hospital in 1986, we've developed our expertise in life sciences, public health and international development to drive better health outcomes for communities near and far.

Today, we're working for a future where diseases are eliminated, where mothers and children are thriving, where the world is better prepared for health challenges, and where people are supported to reduce harms to their health.

Learn more about our strategy for greater impact in a rapidly changing world.

View our health themes, core programs and flagship initiatives.

### Our vision

A more equitable world through better health.

### Our purpose

To create and translate knowledge into better health, so no-one is left behind.

### Our values

Respect, equality, inclusiveness, diversity.

### Where we work

Burnet has offices in Papua New Guinea, Myanmar and Vanuatu, and also contributes to research and public health programs in many other countries across Asia, the Pacific, Africa, Europe, and North America.

## Australian Institute for Infectious Disease (AIID)

The AIID aims to protect Australia and the wider Asia-Pacific region against major global health issues and pandemics. Its formation maximises the strength of partners and provides enhanced capabilities across research and its translation, public health, and education. The AIID is a collaborative initiative of foundation partners Burnet Institute, the Doherty Institute and The University of Melbourne, with funding from the Victorian Government.

## Occupational health and safety

Burnet has a commitment to providing a safe and healthy workplace in accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004. All staff are obliged to take all reasonable care to ensure that their actions do not place themselves or others at risk and to adhere to relevant policies, procedures and safe work practices thereby contributing to a safe, healthy and respectful workplace for all employees, contractors and visitors

## Other requirements

Burnet is a child safe organisation. The incumbent of this position will be required to undergo a Police Check and possibly a Working with Children Check as a condition of employment. The types of contact with children can be viewed here. This position involves the following contact with children (any individual aged under 18 years):

**Contact type**: [indirect contact with children]