

# A more equitable world through better health.



## POSITION DETAILS

TITLE	Research Assistant – Outreach Fieldworker
CLASSIFICATION	RA1- RA3: \$82,789- \$92,247 (pro-rata) + super + salary packaging
TIME FRACTION	0.4 - 0.6 (optional)
CONTRACT TYPE	12 Month Fixed Term Contract
LOCATION	85 Commercial Road, Melbourne 3004, Boonwurrung Land
REPORTS TO	Fieldwork Coordinator
DIRECT REPORTS	Nil
LAST UPDATED	May 25

## POSITION SNAPSHOT

The purpose of this position is to conduct fieldwork involving interviews and blood sample collection from participants in studies of drug use currently being undertaken at the Burnet Institute. Examples of these studies include:

- ‘VMAX’ – A prospective cohort study of people who use methamphetamine in Melbourne and regional Victoria.
- ‘SuperMIX’ – a prospective study of people who inject drugs in Melbourne.
- ‘SIRX’ – a prospective cohort study of clients of the Melbourne Supervised Injecting Room

The role is outreach-based, working at various locations around Melbourne. We’re looking for someone who brings empathy, cultural humility and has experience working with priority populations.

The research assistant will conduct interviews with (and collect samples from) study participants; manage data collection; and, participate in the wider activities of the Alcohol and other Drug Research Group (Disease Elimination Program). Training will be provided in all aspects of the position (including phlebotomy if needed) and work will be undertaken under the supervision of the project investigators and senior members of the fieldwork team.

## KEY RESPONSIBILITY AREAS

1.	PARTICIPANT INTERVIEWS	The Research Assistant will be responsible for locating study participants through initial recruitment methods, conducting follow-up using study databases, and interviewing them using computerised data collection forms as per study protocols.
2.	SAMPLE COLLECTION AND TESTS	The Research Assistant may be required to collect samples such as venous blood samples, spirometry tests and colonisation swabs from participants as per study protocols. This includes the provision of appropriate pre- and post-test discussions around target health conditions such as blood borne viruses (e.g., hepatitis C).
3.	DATA MANAGEMENT	The Research Assistant will be required to upload data and manage collected samples as per study protocols.
4.	ETHICAL ENGAGEMENT	The Research Assistant will be required to abide by our ethics procedures as outlined in study ethics protocols and the Institute’s Standard Operating Procedures.
5.	OTHER RESEARCH TASKS	These include, but are not restricted to: liaison with external agencies, the provision of advice to other Institute staff, conference attendance and presentation, assisting or leading research on related projects (including report writing and technical assistance on research systems), attendance at program or group meetings.
6.	TRAINING	Responsible for completing all required training in line with the position / role.

## KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

QUALIFICATIONS / EXPERIENCE / KNOWLEDGE / ATTRIBUTES	Essential/Preferable
1. Minimum 12 months' experience working in community or support roles with priority populations including, but not limited to, people who use drugs, people experiencing homelessness, people impacted by the criminal justice system, or individuals from marginalised or underrepresented communities	Essential
2. Minimum 12 months' experience in a frontline support or client-facing role using interpersonal skills to engage respectfully and non-judgementally with individuals from diverse backgrounds, navigating sensitive conversations with empathy, maturity, and understanding	Essential
3. Strong organisational skills and attention to detail, including being able to manage multiple research-related tasks	Essential
4. A commitment to working collaboratively, contributing to a supportive team culture and engaging in regular debriefing, reflection and ongoing learning.	Essential
5. A qualification in public health, psychology, social work, AOD, community services or other relevant area	Preferable
6. Advanced degree in public health, epidemiology or related discipline	Preferable
7. Experience in the dissemination of research findings	Preferable
8. Statistical analysis skills and experience in the use of statistical software such as Stata/SPSS	Preferable

# About Burnet Institute

## Vision

A more equitable world through better health.

## Purpose

Create and translate knowledge into better health so no-one is left behind.

## Values

Respect, Equality, Inclusiveness, Diversity.

## Who we are

Burnet Institute is an Australian-based medical research and public health institute and international non-government organisation that is working towards a more equitable world through better health.

## What we do

We are committed to creating and translating knowledge into better health so no-one is left behind. We do this through engaging with and understanding the needs of a broad range of communities and stakeholders to develop laboratory-based and social research programs, policies and products that deliver better health outcomes.

## Where we work



Priority countries:

Australia | Papua New Guinea | Myanmar

We also support and contribute to research and public health programs in other Asian, Pacific and African countries.

## Australian Institute for Infectious Disease (AIID)

Bringing together Burnet Institute, The University of Melbourne, and the Doherty Institute with funding from the Victorian Government, the AIID is a visionary initiative designed to protect Australia and the region against infectious disease and future pandemics. Establishment of a new state-of-the-art facility which will be the new home of Burnet is expected to be operational by 2027.



## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

The 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.

## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Evidence of full vaccination against Covid-19 will be required. The Burnet Institute 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	No Contact With Children
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## ENQUIRIES

For further information, please contact [careers@burnet.edu.au](mailto:careers@burnet.edu.au)