

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

SECTION A: Position Context

Position Title	Postdoctoral Fellow – Data Analyst / Epidemiologist
Position Number	
Classification	Research Officer – RO3
Location	85 Commercial Road Melbourne
Effective Date	November 2018

Purpose:

The purpose of this position is to examine patterns of drug use and related harms, with a specific focus on evaluating services provided to people who use drugs such as primary care and supervised injecting facilities.

This role involves using a variety of longitudinal cohort and other datasets on illicit drug use and related harms collected by the Burnet Institute to determine the impact of services on the health and wellbeing of cohort members.

Specific datasets include:

- **The Melbourne Injecting Drug User Cohort Study, SuperMIX:** SuperMIX, established during 2008-2010 is the largest and only active prospective cohort study of people who inject drugs in Australia. With over 1000 cohort members as of 2018 SuperMIX provides unparalleled power to examine patterns of injecting drug use and drug market access patterns of cohort members as well as any harms they may experience through direct face-to-face interview conducted every year. Importantly, SuperMIX has extensive data linkage to a range of administrative datasets on service access meaning that the impact of these services on health outcomes of cohort members can be determined. One focus of our work over coming years will be on the impact of access to facilities for people who use drugs such as primary care centres and supervised injecting facilities on the behaviour of the cohort, using an analytic framework implemented in Vancouver, widely considered the gold-standard for studies of this type.
- **Understanding methamphetamine use in metropolitan and regional Victoria, VMAX:** VMAX, established during 2016-2018 is a prospective cohort study of people who smoke methamphetamine. It is the only active cohort of its type and importantly involves participants from three regional sites across Victoria as well as the Melbourne metropolitan region. VMAX is modelled on the SuperMIX design and will provide unique data on the trajectories of methamphetamine use in contemporary methamphetamine market conditions in Australia.

The position is funded initially for a period of 12 month years with likelihood of extension. The position will be responsible for analysing data and producing publishable reports (including refereed journal articles) from the above studies along with additional datasets as they arise. Additional tasks such as staff and/or project supervision and direct data collection may be assigned to the position for suitable candidates.

Participation in the wider activities of the Behaviours and Health Risks Program and the Public Health discipline more broadly is expected. Training will be provided in all aspects of the position and work will be undertaken under the supervision of project investigators and Institute statisticians.

Supervision Reporting Relationships:

<u>This</u> positions' supervisor/manager	Professor Paul Dietze
Other key management relationships	Professor Mark Stooze, Ms Amy Kirwan, Mr Paul Agius
Other positions reporting to <u>this</u> position	

SECTION B: Key Responsibility Areas

The key responsibility areas (KRAs) are the major outputs for which the position is responsible and are not a comprehensive statement of the position activities.

Key Responsibility Areas		
1.	Data Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and maintain data analysis and paper production plans in consultation with the study principal investigators and other stakeholders Analyse longitudinal cohort data using a range of statistical techniques Ensure maintenance of high scientific and ethical standards across projects Present project progress reports.
2.	Reporting and publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarize and communicate progress, milestones and outcomes to principal investigators, colleagues and partners. Write full manuscripts related to analyses, their interpretation, and submit for academic publication Translate outcomes of findings into relevant outputs and publications, including opinion pieces, policy briefs, and guidelines as required Work with wider public health researchers to support reporting and publication of findings
3.	Training and capacity strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directly support capacity building through technical mentorship, direct training and systems support in relevant areas Conduct training workshops on epidemiological data analysis and report generation. Directly oversee the integration of this training and capacity into the program
4.	People Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide project and operational support, administrative tasks completion, contribute to project plans, organise and coordinate meetings Actively recruit and supervise students Lead and motivate staff as required and supervise the work of the project staff, manage work plans and help build their capacity; and, encourage and support their professional and personal development Develop and maintain good relationships with wider Burnet Institute staff and collaborators Ensure that the activities performed under their responsibility are carried out in ways that safeguard the OHS of staff or students
5.	Stakeholder Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and maintain good relationships with external stakeholders Represent the Burnet Institute at project meetings with collaborators, external stakeholders and/or funding agencies liaise with participating institutions, clinicians and pharmaceutical companies as required Attend conferences, seminars and forums as requested. Identify appropriate representational opportunities for the Burnet Institute at conferences, seminars and forums
6.	Occupational Health & Safety	Refer to the "Burnet OHS responsibilities and roles" document for full details on specific OHS obligations and responsibilities of Employees.
7.	Training	Responsible for completing all required training in line with the position / role.

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.

SECTION C: Key Selection Criteria

Qualifications	
Bachelor Degree in science, medicine or related discipline	Essential
A PhD and developing track record relative to opportunity in a relevant field such as epidemiology, biostatistics, statistics, econometrics or public health	Essential
Experience in relevant research and related methodologies	Essential

Experience / Knowledge / Attributes	
1. High-level research and data analysis skills	Essential
2. Demonstrated experience in a research / program management role	Essential
3. Demonstrated capacity to conduct independent research with high quality research outputs including refereed journal publication and translation into policy or practice.	Essential
4. Statistical analysis skills and experience in the use of statistical software such as Stata	Essential
5. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills including and the ability to engage professionally with stakeholders and display empathy and understanding in dealing with marginalised people	Essential
6. Previous experience leading the development and writing of academic publications	Essential
7. Demonstrated understanding of ethical principles underpinning research with marginalised populations	Essential
8. Excellent organisational and time management skills, including being able to manage multiple research-related tasks	Essential
9. Experience in the supervision of students undertaking undergraduate projects and higher degrees	Preferable
10. Experience working with vulnerable and marginalised populations	Preferable
11. Experience in the dissemination of research findings	Preferable
12. Excellent working knowledge of the Microsoft Office suite and other database packages	Preferable

Other Requirements

The Burnet Institute is a child safe organisation. The incumbent of this position may be required to undergo a Police Check or Working with Children Check as a condition of their employment.

SECTION D: Burnet Overview

Burnet Institute is a leading Australian medical research and public health organisation focused on achieving better health for vulnerable communities in Australia and internationally by accelerating the translation of research, discovery and evidence into sustainable health solutions. The Institute is headquartered in Melbourne with programs that operate across Asia, the Pacific and in Africa.

Burnet's culture links innovative discovery-oriented research and implementation research with development and humanitarian action. World-class laboratory and field-based research is integrated into multidisciplinary programs aimed at the prevention, detection and treatment of diseases of global significance. This unique approach allows the Institute to make a tangible and sustainable impact on health in both developed and developing countries.

The Institute has three major thematic programs – Disease Elimination, Behaviours and Health Risk, and Maternal and Child Health, and two expansion programs – Healthy Ageing and Health Security. Staff within these Programs are supported by cross-cutting communities of practice; the Disciplines of Life Sciences, Public Health and International Development.

Further Information:

For further information, please contact Professor Paul Dietze