

# STANDARD TEACHING AND RESEARCH POSITION DESCRIPTION



<b>Position</b>	Research Fellow
<b>Level/ Classification</b>	ACLEB
<b>Reports to</b>	Senior Principal Research Fellow
<b>Division</b>	Ngangk Yira Institute for Change
<b>Directorate</b>	Research and Innovation

**This is a Section 51 position and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander applicants will be prioritised.**

## **Position Purpose**

The Research Fellow requires a mixed-methods, self-directed health researcher with good research, communication and project management skills to work as a member of an inter-institutional research team involved in projects at the intersection of climate change, pregnancy and Aboriginal health.

Infant and child health and social outcomes are a major focus of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. The Coolamon Centre is involved in a range of projects related to Aboriginal environmental health, climate change and strategies to address community needs and priorities. Building on evidence of the short and long-term health effects of extreme heat during pregnancy on infants and children, the position will explore the impacts of extreme heat on pregnant Aboriginal women (and their babies) living in rural/remote Western Australia. The research will focus on their experiences and explore strategies to mitigate heat effects in pregnancy, including health education and promotion to improve maternal and infant outcomes. Recognising the socio-environmental factors that contribute to the heat vulnerability of rural/remote Aboriginal communities, the research will contribute to public health initiatives and clinical practice as well as government policy to improve environmental infrastructure, including housing, water, power and food security.

This position is situated in the Coolamon Centre at the Ngangk Yira Institute for Change, with a focus on program implementation in rural Western Australia. Consequently, travel to rural/remote areas will be required.

This role would suit somebody who has completed a PhD or has post-doctoral experience, ideally with health research or health care experience, and requires an understanding of Aboriginal health and socio-environmental contexts. Candidates should be passionate about translational research, working with vulnerable and low resource populations.

## About Murdoch University

Murdoch University is a young and dynamic university with a foundational commitment to the environment, social justice and inclusion, and making education accessible to more people. Founded as Western Australia's second university in 1974, today, Murdoch has more than 21,000 students and 1,700 staff across campuses in Perth, Singapore and Dubai. With more than 90,000 Alumni, Murdoch graduates can be found all over the world, making a positive difference.

Our Strategy – Ngala Kwop Bidli. Building a brighter future, together – guides the University's direction and reaffirms our shared purpose to change lives and society for the better through accessible education and research.

The Strategy is focused on three key themes:

- Sustainability: Be a leading university in education, teaching and translational research in sustainability.
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Build a welcoming, diverse and inclusive community.
- First Nations: Become the University of first choice for First Nations peoples.

Murdoch is also committed to building engagement with our local community, State, nation, and global society with a track-record in creating strong partnerships with business, government and industry.

## About the Work Area

The Ngangk Yira Institute for Change (Ngangk Yira) is one of four Murdoch University institutes that bring together leading researchers working in two Research Centres with colleagues from across the University and broader academic and other sectors to deliver world class multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary translational research benefitting the Aboriginal community, government, and health and service sectors. Ngangk Yira brings together the disciplines that contribute to ensuring quality research evidence underpins Murdoch University's commitment to excellence in Aboriginal health and social equity and transformative research that translates to meet community needs.

Ngangk Yira is founded on principles of Aboriginal-led research, community engagement, and professional collaborations. Through meaningful and structured engagement with Aboriginal Elders and Aboriginal communities, Ngangk Yira is committed to the preservation and promotion of cultural wisdom and data sovereignty and ensuring meaningful, co-designed research which supports change in health, wellbeing and social equity for Aboriginal people, families, and communities.

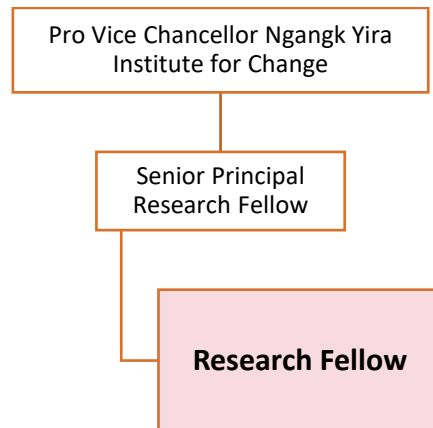
Ngangk Yira's reputation in Aboriginal-led translational research is diverse and is organised across two Research and Advocacy Centres and a Systems and Policy Unit. These are:

- 1) The health of Aboriginal women, men, children and families - Yorga, Maaman and Koolanga Research and Advocacy Centre; and
- 2) Healthy Aboriginal families and communities - Coolamon Research and Advocacy Centre.
- 3) Responsive and accountable health and social systems – the Systems and Policy Unit.

Each of these Centres is informed by a System's and Policy Lens to advocate for systems accountability and change, critical for a fair and just society to be responsive to the needs of

all its' citizens. This System's and Policy framework guides the translation of Ngangk Yira research for the ultimate benefit of Aboriginal peoples and relevant stakeholders.

### Reporting Relationships



### Key Responsibilities / Duties

1. Undertake and supervise translational research projects related to heat effects during pregnancy and strategies to reduce risk
2. Undertake literature reviews to inform the program of work
3. Prepare Ethics Committee submissions/amendments and ensure appropriate scientific rigour in adhering to general and First Nations ethics protocols, including Indigenous Data Sovereignty
4. Prepare manuscripts for publication in national and international peer reviewed journals resulting from research outcomes of projects
5. Write and review scientific content for reports and grant applications
6. Present research findings at national and international scientific forums
7. Identify further funding opportunities and assist in the preparation and development of funding applications
8. Work with the Research Administrator/Coordinator/investigator(s) to ensure appropriate management of the study budget and reporting requirements
9. Develop effective communication channels between internal and external project stakeholders and other collaborators
10. Participate in the Centres research aims, including peer review within the Institute, contribution to design and interpretation of results
11. Assist in the supervision of research and/or students as required
12. Any other tasks as reasonably required by the supervisor, coordinator and/or Director

### Selection Criteria

#### Essential

1. A completed or near-completed PhD in a relevant field (for example, social sciences, evaluation, health professions).
2. Demonstrated experience in collecting, analysing and interpreting qualitative and some quantitative data
3. Willingness to develop/expand research portfolio in Heat Effects of Pregnancy
4. Demonstrated commitment to, and understanding of, working in a culturally safe and trauma informed way

5. Demonstrated ability to maintain effective and culturally safe interactions with diverse Aboriginal people in urban, regional, and remote communities
6. Highly developed interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to manage expectations of multiple external stakeholders, including the ability to seek solutions to address conflicting views
7. Demonstrated ability to work as an effective member of a large multidisciplinary investigator and project team
8. Demonstrated ability to work under broad direction only, exercise initiative in undertaking responsibilities, and working effectively and collaboratively as a team member
9. Record of publication and conference presentations
10. Demonstrated strengths-based, problem-solving skills with the ability to identify and recommend solutions to address challenging issues
11. Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, Word, Outlook, Teams)
12. Experience with or willingness to learn new software applications such as NVivo to manage qualitative data and Endnote bibliographic software
13. Ability to travel to rural/remote areas

### **Desirable**

1. A background and/or experience in one or more in areas of maternal, child or family care, community health, health promotion or Indigenous health
2. Good knowledge of the WA health system and Aboriginal community-controlled sector

### **Work Requirements**

1. Australian permanent residency or possession of a valid visa with work entitlement in Australia.
2. The occupant of this position will be required to undertake a criminal record check in accordance with the University's Criminal Record Screening Procedure.
3. Current "C" class driver's license
4. Current Working with Children Check WA
5. Ability to work outside of normal office hours when required.
6. A willingness and ability to travel interstate and nationally when needed

### **Probationary Review**

This position may be subject to a probationary period, during which time the academic staff member is required to meet set probationary objectives and pass a probationary review. Probationary objectives are set following appointment to the position and confirmed at the first Academic Contribution Development Conversation (ACDC).

### **General Obligations**

While at work, an employee must:

- take reasonable care for their own health and safety and ensure that their acts or omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of other persons;
- report incidents, injuries and hazards;
- comply with any reasonable instruction that is given by Murdoch University; and
- comply with Murdoch University policies and procedures.

## Guiding Principles and Values / Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct

### Our Values

- Authenticity
- Integrity
- Respect
- Inclusivity
- Openness

### Our Principles

- Act with justice, respect and responsible care.
- Be collegiate and respectful of other points of view.
- Protect academic freedom.
- Be agile, flexible and resilient.
- Make decisions at the most appropriate level.
- Be transparent in decision-making and with information.
- Adopt common approaches to common tasks.
- Be careful stewards of our resources.

All staff will comply with the University's Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct and demonstrate a commitment to its Equity, Diversity and Safety principles and the general capabilities of personal effectiveness, working collaboratively and demonstrating a focus on results.

All Staff undergoing a probation period are required to set probationary objectives with their leader within 3 months of commencement.

*We acknowledge that Murdoch University is situated on the lands of the Whadjuk and Binjareb Noongar people. We pay our respects to their enduring and dynamic culture and the leadership of Noongar elders past and present. The boodjar (country) on which Murdoch University is located has, for thousands of years, been a place of learning. We at Murdoch University are proud to continue this long tradition.*