

Position description

Position title:	Research Fellow
Date established:	August 2015
Reports to:	Deputy Director, the Australian Prevention Partnership Centre
Direct reports:	Nil

Background

The Sax Institute is a national leader in promoting the use of research evidence in health policy. A non-profit organisation, we aim to improve health and wellbeing by driving the use of research in policies, programs and services.

We support organisations to use evidence to inform their work, we build research infrastructure that generates new knowledge for use in decision making and we lead the development of knowledge about how to increase the use of research. We are not a research institute but rather, a transformative organisation established to develop innovative ways of better engaging research and policy.

The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre (TAPPC) is responsible for making the evidence about prevention readily known and for using this information to activate an efficient, effective and equitable prevention system across Australia. It is a collaboration involving many of Australia's internationally leading researchers in prevention, with 31 investigators from five states and territories and more than 20 universities, and government, non-government and private sector agencies. It is jointly funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), the Australian Government Department of Health, NSW Ministry of Health, ACT Health and the HCF Research Foundation. TAPPC is administered by the Sax Institute (Sydney) and co-hosted as a partnership between the Sax Institute and the Centre for Excellence in Intervention and Prevention Science (Melbourne).

Commencing in June 2013, the aim of the Centre is to be a world leader in prevention science applied to chronic disease. With funding of \$22.6M over 5 years the objectives of the Centre are to strengthen the research base for prevention, synthesise evidence and make readily available what is known, and help activate an effective and efficient prevention system in Australia. It will do this through a collaborative and integrated model of working with partners in policy and practice relevant knowledge production, translation and implementation. There will be a strong focus on learning from action bringing a systems perspective to planning, implementation and evaluation of action to prevent chronic disease.

The Centre work plan includes four standing capacities in evaluation, communication, evidence synthesis and systems science and implementation and an annual set of linked projects. Projects will be undertaken from multiple sites and with varying investigators. These will need to be undertaken within defined budgets and timelines.

Purpose of position

The Research Fellow will work with the Deputy Director and other members of the Investigator Team to develop, implement and lead various projects and activities of the Centre as they evolve.

Key accountabilities

The Research Fellow will be based at the Sax Institute as part of the Coordinating Centre of TAPPC, which includes the Director, Deputy Director, Communications Manager, Program Manager, Learning and Development Manager, Knowledge Integration Manager and Administration Officer. He or she will report to the Deputy Director.

Responsibilities

The Research Fellow will work with Investigators and Partners across TAPPC to make a leading contribution to the research program of the Centre. The focus will broadly be on developing and implementing innovative methods and approaches for realising the Centre's vision, that is, for an effective, efficient and equitable system for the prevention of lifestyle-related chronic disease.

Together with the Investigators and Partners, as well as leading experts internationally, the Fellow will be central to the intellectual work, including:

- Creating a shared understanding of what the problem is
- Improving understanding of what a system for the prevention of lifestyle-related chronic disease could be
- Identify what the key elements for a prevention system could look like
- Prioritising strategies for change
- Agreeing a set of relevant indicators to monitor performance at local, state/territory and national levels

It is anticipated that this program of work will provide information, frameworks and capacity to assist action and decision-making for investment in a population-wide, efficient, effective and equitable system in Australia for the prevention of lifestyle-related chronic disease.

External relationships

The Research Fellow will work collaboratively with the Centre's government, non-government and university partners.

Decision making and delegation

The Research Fellow will have decision making and delegations as specified by the Deputy Director.

Essential selection/performance criteria

- A PhD in a relevant discipline
- A strong academic record with excellent written and verbal communications as evidenced by a track record of publications in peer reviewed journals
- Demonstrated ability to work in a collaborative research environment with diverse stakeholders
- Sound knowledge and understanding of the field of public health and health care in Australia
- Successful research project management experience, including delivering projects on time
- Ability to take on a leadership role in the development and implementation of projects

Desirable

- Understanding of/and commitment to working in a non-profit organisation
- Masters of Public Health degree
- Experience in leading and submitting successful human research ethics application