

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN:-

CHILD AND/OR FAMILY MENTAL HEALTH, WELL-BEING, AND DEVELOPMENT

School of Paediatrics & Reproductive Health

Discipline of Paediatrics

Research and Evaluation Unit

Postgraduate scholarship opportunities for PhD research are available for 2009 (to eligible candidates). A range of exciting opportunities exist for research projects which focus on child and family mental health and well-being, and early child development. Strong partnerships exist between the Research and Evaluation Unit and South Australian Government departments and organisations (such as the Department of Education and Children's Services and Children, Youth and Women's Health Service) which enable a wide range of highly innovative and pioneering studies that are directly relevant to policy makers and practitioners in the area of child and family services.

Major research themes within the Research and Evaluation Unit currently include:

- The extent to which an early family intervention improves outcomes (e.g., maternal health and well-being, parenting practices, early child development and behaviour) for infants and their families
- Gaining a better understanding of how integrated child care, education, health and welfare services improve the general wellbeing and development of young children (birth to five) and their families.
- Developing a deeper understanding about the emergence of mental health resilience in early childhood, and in particular the role of children's relationships with parents and teachers in fostering resilience to adversity in young children.

The Research and Evaluation Unit is led by Professor Michael Sawyer and has an excellent research record of vigorous and diverse research programs in the area of child, adolescent and family mental health. During the last decade, researchers in the Research and Evaluation Unit have undertaken a number of population-based surveys which have provided information about the nature and distribution of child and adolescent mental disorders in Australia. In addition, we have developed and evaluated interventions designed to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children, adolescents and parents. Researchers in the Research and Evaluation Unit work closely with health, education and welfare services to ensure that findings from research are translated into clinical and public health practice.

The Research and Evaluation Unit provides high level research training for young investigators who are interested in developing careers in areas relevant to the health and wellbeing of children, adolescents and families. Research training is provided in a supportive and collaborative team environment, which comprises of senior academic and clinical staff, senior project management staff, post-doctoral research fellows, PhD students, and research assistants. Staff have links with a diverse range of clinical and academic colleagues, providing many possibilities for project collaboration. Our student environment is challenging with exciting projects that ensure a fulfilling and enjoyable research experience and open the door to various career paths. The Research and Evaluation Unit is located in the Norwich

Centre in North Adelaide, offering a pleasant working environment that is conducive to teaching and learning.

We welcome discussion regarding potential supervision of students with academic backgrounds in many areas, but particularly in the areas of Health and Psychological Science and Public Health.

Interested?

Contact Professor Michael Sawyer on 8161 7207 or at michael.sawyer@adelaide.edu.au