Expressions of interest sought for scholarships for Masters degree by research on obesity management & prevention in primary health care – various possible locations

The Centre for Obesity Management, Prevention and Research Excellence in Primary Health Care (COMPaRE-PHC) has been funded by the Australian Primary Health Care Research for four years from July 2012 to June 2016. It is a collaboration between six institutions: the University of New South Wales (UNSW), University of Sydney, University of Technology Sydney (UTS), Deakin University, Adelaide University, and Inala Indigenous Health Service. COMPaRE-PHC will evaluate and translate new ways of managing overweight and obesity across the lifecycle and among disadvantaged groups by primary health care services in Australia. Further information is available from http://compare-phc.unsw.edu.au/.

Two scholarships for Masters by Research are being offered. The scholarships can be based at any of the partner institutions; however preference will be given to applicants who wish to study with University of Queensland (working with Inala Indigenous Health Service in Brisbane) or Adelaide University. People interested in this area of research are invited to lodge an expression of interest in the first instance. Specific areas of interest are in:

1. Obesity prevention and management in Indigenous communities
2. Obesity management in disadvantaged populations
3. Implementation of guidelines for prevention and management of obesity in PHC

The value of each scholarship is $26,000 p.a. for a full-time student, which includes a tax-exempt allowance of $25,000 p.a. and $1,000 p.a. for research-related costs. The scholarships are for a period of 1.5 years FTE, and must be completed by June 2016.

The minimum expected academic qualifications of applicants are Honours 2/1 in relevant disciplines or Bachelor degrees in relevant disciplines plus significant research experience and publications. Applicants must be Australian citizens, Australian Permanent Residents and must be based in Australia for the duration of the Scholarship.

Interested researchers are encouraged in the first instance to contact one of the following investigators about topic areas of interest

1. Obesity prevention and management in Indigenous communities:
   Dr Deborah Askew, Inala Indigenous Health Service (07) 3275-5465 deborah_askew@health.qld.gov.au
2. Obesity management in disadvantaged populations:
   Prof Nigel Stocks, University of Adelaide (08) 8313-3462 nigel.stocks@adelaide.edu.au or
   Prof Mark Harris, UNSW (02) 9385-8384 m.f.harris@unsw.edu.au
3. Implementation of obesity guidelines in PHC:
   Prof Mark Harris, UNSW (as above) or for research in this area relating to health economics:
   Prof Jon Karnon, Uni of Adelaide (08) 8313-3562 jonathan.karnon@adelaide.edu.au
4. Obesity prevention in early life:
   Dr Karen Campbell, Deakin University (03) 522-78414 karen.campbell@deakin.edu.au or
   Dr Elizabeth Denney-Wilson, UTS (02) 9514-4554 Elizabeth.Denney-Wilson@uts.edu.au

Expressions of interest should be emailed to Dr Catherine Spooner at c.spooner@unsw.edu.au. It should provide availability; preferred institution; a brief curriculum vitae including qualifications, research experience and any publications; two referees; current contact details; and an outline of your interest in the areas of the research we are undertaking. Expressions of interest will be received until COB 16 September, 2013.