



Position Description

Position Title:	Research Fellow
Salary Range:	FJD \$52,341- \$60,985
Reporting Manager:	Dr Rachel Devi and Dr. Donald Wilson
Home Group:	Ministry of Health & Medical Services and Fiji National University

Project Overview

The world has undergone a rapid epidemiological transition. Rapid shifts in social, economic, and commercial determinants of health have resulted in non-communicable diseases (NCDs; such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic respiratory disease) leading the burden of disease globally.¹ To date the main focus of NCD research has been in high-income countries, but the burden of NCDs is disproportionately borne by those living in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC).²

This project focuses on two important countries in our region, Indonesia and Fiji. Indonesia is the world's 4th most populous country and has experienced a rapid epidemiological transition to NCD predominant disease burden. Fiji meanwhile has established high rates of obesity and NCDs (including mental disorder) across their population and is a leader of evidence-based action in the Pacific region. There is rapidly evolving knowledge in Indonesia and Fiji around NCD risk, yet this has yet to inform effective policy or scalable action.

Adolescence (defined here as 10-24 years old) has been largely overlooked in global efforts for NCD control despite being a life-phase crucial to prevention and a time when many NCDs and NCD-risks emerge³. Many risk factors for NCDs, including tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, and overweight, are potentially modifiable at this time. This project aims to define responsive, evidence-based actions for preventing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Indonesia and Fiji, designed and communicated in partnership with young people and other stakeholders.

The project will focus on three areas of work to address three aims.

Aim 1: Describe the specific adolescent NCD health needs in Indonesia and Fiji, placing these in the context of the broader needs across the Asia Pacific.

Aim 2: Map existing efforts for NCDs in Indonesia and Fiji, considering: governance, financing, service delivery, and accountability (including youth engagement).

Aim 3: Develop responsive, evidence-based solutions for action in partnership with stakeholders and young people.

Position Overview

We are seeking to employ a full-time (1.0 FTE) Research Fellow to support to support project efforts in Fiji. This will include, but not limited to:

- Leading the policy reviews and gap maps in their relevant country
- Assisting with the ethics application process in their relevant country
- Assisting with/ leading/ supervising scoping reviews/ evidence synthesis in their relevant country
- Assisting with/ facilitating co-design workshops with young people in their relevant country
- Contributing to all reports, briefs, and publication/s in their relevant country

Key Accountabilities

- Leadership of policy reviews and gap maps
- Leadership of scoping reviews / evidence synthesis
- Assisting with the ethics application process in their relevant country
- Assisting with/ facilitating co-design workshops with young people
- Contributing to all reports, briefs, and publication/s
- Conducts ethical research at the highest level of integrity and in line with the Fijian and Australian Code for Responsible Conduct of Research and MCRI policies
- Conducts research activities in alignment with the strategic direction of FNU
- Leads by example through activities such as attendance at meetings, membership of committees, and internal and external conference presentations
- Fosters relationships with key internal and external stakeholders

Selection criteria

Essential

- Degree/Honours/Masters qualification in Science or related discipline
- 6+ years of expertise gained from a combination of experience, training or professional accreditation
- Demonstrated capacity to work independently and collaboratively in a team environment
- Excellent time management, organisational and analytical problem-solving skills.
- Demonstrated excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Demonstrated computer skills, including spreadsheets, database programs, statistics and word processing
- Demonstrated understanding of a range of research methodologies and their application in empirical research
- Experience in knowledge sharing, development, mentoring and support of employees and students

Desirable (as needed)

- Experience in adolescent health
- Policy mapping experience