**Centre for Research Excellence –
Strengthening Systems for Indigenous Health Care Equity**

**Honours, Masters by Research and PhD Scholarships**

***Are you looking to study Honours, Masters by Research or PhD as part of an Indigenous-led research collaboration?***

***Expressions of interest are now open for Scholarships***

***About CRE-STRIDE***

Our vision for the Centre for Research Excellence - Strengthening systems for Indigenous health care equity (CRE-STRIDE) is equitable health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through quality improvement (QI) and collaborative research to strength primary health care systems. Link to our webpage: <https://ucrh.edu.au/cre-stride/> and our investigators.

CRE-STRIDE is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) from 2020 – 2024 and is administered by the University Centre for Rural Health, The University of Sydney.

CRE-STRIDE involves leading researchers from across Australia with expertise in health systems and QI research, participatory action research, Indigenous methodologies, epidemiology, public health, health and social policy. The CRE Investigator team, and higher degree research (HDR) supervisors have outstanding national and international reputations and track records.

Our research approach is based on growing evidence of the importance of community-driven, culture-strengthening interventions in Indigenous primary health care settings. Our way of working puts the strengths, needs and aspirations of Indigenous people at the centre of the research process informed by methodologies that reflect Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing and advance international Indigenous scholarship.

***The opportunity***

CRE-STRIDE is offering scholarships to support honours, Masters of Research and PhD candidates. Our preference is to work with potential candidates to identify areas of common interest that fall within the CRE-STRIDE strategic aims:

* Indigenous research methodologies and leadership;
* Strengthening QI processes within primary health care systems and enhancing community linkages; and
* Extending QI processes across sectors to promote health and wellbeing and strengthen social and cultural determinants of health.

We offer a number of specific ideas below:

* Evaluation of CRE-STRIDE (for example: developmental, process evaluation;
* Understanding quality improvement facilitation and its applications;
* Developing and implementing a systems assessment tool for managers in Indigenous primary care;
* Testing and refining new implementation processes and tools to overcome barriers to improvement and efficacy of quality improvement approaches;
* Systems thinking approaches to quality improvement and/or a research collaboration;
* Facilitating and generating a synthesis of knowledge across multiple projects, operating under CRE-STRIDE;
* Developing methods for strengthening community input into improving quality improvement processes.

***Value of the scholarship***

The scholarship will be offered for a maximum of 2 years (subject to satisfying course academic requirements) and will include a tax-free living stipend of up to $28,000 per annum. The candidate will be encouraged and supported to seek scholarship funding elsewhere for the duration of the candidature.

***Scholarship provisions***

In addition to the financial provisions of the award, scholarship holders will benefit from being able to access a range of professional development opportunities, such as conferences, seminars, seed funding grants and involvement in research programs.

Importantly the candidate will be embedded in a research rich environment with academics and practitioners from a wide range of organisations, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research mentors.

***Eligibility***

* Applicants must be enrolled in, or satisfy the admission requirements for entry to, a PhD, Masters by Research or Honours program at an Australian University;
* The candidate must have one of the Chief or Associate Investigators of the CRE-STRIDE as their primary or co-supervisor. A list of the investigators can be obtained by visiting: <https://ucrh.edu.au/cre-stride/>
* Must be a citizen or a permanent resident of Australia;
* Part-time candidature may be acceptable with negotiation;
* **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.**

***How to apply***

Please submit the following:

* Expression of Interest;
* Current CV and a copy of academic transcript;
* Copies of certified academic transcripts; and
* Proof of residency (not required for Australian citizens).

We welcome discussions with us prior to completing an Expression of Interest. Expressions of Interest will be assessed at the end of each quarter (end of March, June, September, and December). The scholarships awarded are capped by the overall budget, no applications will be accepted once budget allocation is fully committed.

The Expression of Interest is to be a maximum of 1-2 pages outlining candidates research skills, experience and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and quality improvement, and a summary of goals for future study. If known, candidates should identify university and/or potential supervisor and/or topic outline. Please submit EOI with a copy of CV and of academic record.

Expressions of Interest should be submitted to CRE-STRIDE Manager, Roxanne Smith, University Centre for Rural Health, The University of Sydney at Roxanne.Smith@sydney.edu.au

***Enquiries***

We welcome any questions about the Scholarship Program or the Expression of Interest process, and encourage you to contact Dr Veronica Matthews at veronica.matthews@sydney.edu.au or Professor Ross Bailie at Ross.Bailie@sydney.edu.au