CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
PhD position
Prevention Research Collaboration
School of Public Health, University of Sydney

Closing date for Expressions of Interest: 5.00 pm Friday 28 November.

OPPORTUNITY
We are inviting outstanding applications for a PhD position, to work as part of a multidisciplinary research team conducting the 2015 NSW Schools Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey (SPANS) at the Prevention Research Collaboration (PRC), University of Sydney School of Public Health.

SPANS is the NSW Ministry of Health's funded population surveillance survey of school aged children’s weight and weight-related behaviours and has been conducted in 1997, 2004 and 2010. The information is used to evaluate government investment in childhood obesity prevention across NSW and to provide secular trends in child and adolescent overweight/obesity and obesity related behaviours.

PHD RESEARCH PROGRAM
The PhD will be completed predominantly by publications. The candidate will ideally be involved in the field work and data collection process (January to April 2015), and undertake secondary analysis of data for peer-review publications as part of their PhD program. The dataset comprises information on children’s (aged 5 to 16 years) weight and weight-related behaviours (physical activity, fitness, fundamental move skills, school transport, sitting, dietary habits and patterns, dental health and sleep patterns). There is plenty of scope for candidates to identify their topics of interest and conceptualise new research avenues within the SPANS data for their PhD program.

Interested candidates will need to secure a scholarship for their PhD stipend, and candidates will be supported by the PhD supervisory team to prepare applications to secure funding. Successful candidates will also have an opportunity to supplement their scholarship through research assistance work on SPANS and/or other projects.

This is an excellent opportunity for candidates to gain valuable experience working in a cross-disciplinary environment, and in particular for those interested in developing research skills with the view to a public health research career.

OUR RESEARCH GROUP
The successful PhD applicant will be based with the PRC, a research group within the University of Sydney School of Public Health, and located at the Charles Perkins Centre. The PRC is made up of several related groups comprising multi-disciplinary research academics working in physical activity, obesity, nutrition and health promotion research and evaluation. The PRC currently employs over 20 research staff with expertise in behavioural science, epidemiology, exercise physiology, nutrition, intervention research and evaluation.
ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

- Australian residency
- Working with Children check
- Masters of Public Health (MPH, MIPH) degree or equivalent (e.g., psychology, health sciences, education) or Honours Class 1 in these disciplines with research experience
- Experience conducting literature searches, critical appraisals and peer-review publication
- Experience with quantitative data analytic skills (using appropriate statistical software)
- Experience in working across projects and ability to meet deadlines
- Excellent written and communication skills
- Excellent computer skills in standard software programs (e.g., Microsoft Office)

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

- Work experience in a university or other research environment
- Understanding of or background in health promotion research and evaluation
- Understanding of population health and behavioural research issues
- Capacity to work collaboratively as part of a team, but ability to also work independently with minimal supervision
- Knowledge and understanding of nutrition, physical activity and/or obesity prevention
- Experience in writing for scientific publications

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must include a CV and covering letter noting skills and experience in relation to the criteria and should be submitted by email to Dr Louise Hardy louise.hardy@sydney.edu.au.

For any related queries, please email (see above) or telephone (ph: 02 8627 1846) Dr Louise Hardy