

## **EOI: Research Masters/PhD Opportunity Ironbark project: implementation and evaluation**

**Are you an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person interested in contributing to research around healthy ageing in older Aboriginal people?**

Prof Rebecca Ivers (School of Population Health, UNSW) is seeking expressions of interest from candidates to undertake a two-year Masters by Research (MRes), with a potential pathway to upgrade to a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). The research will focus on implementation and evaluation of a community-based falls prevention and healthy ageing program for Aboriginal people 45 years and older, the Ironbark Program.

The main trial, funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia, aims to evaluate the Ironbark program's impact on strength and balance of participants, fall rates; social and emotional wellbeing; independence and mobility. The study also includes an embedded process evaluation that aims to explore relationships between participation and program outcomes. This MRes/PhD opportunity will focus on the strength of program implementation in community settings. For further information about the trial, please visit our website: [www.ironbarkproject.org.au](http://www.ironbarkproject.org.au)

### **What will you be contributing to?**

Falls prevention and healthy ageing programs for older Aboriginal people are an area of increasing need as the Aboriginal population ages. The Ironbark program is community-based, involving yarning circles combined with balance and strength training that has been developed with strong Aboriginal community oversight. Through this research, you will be contributing to the evidence base around program implementation and process evaluation for Aboriginal community projects, with potential for direct translation into national policy and program development. The process evaluation will use a mixed methods design, guided by Indigenous research methodology.

### **Why study with us?**

You will have the opportunity to engage in high quality research under the guidance of expert researchers and supervisors. The Ironbark trial is being conducted by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal researchers from the University of New South Wales, the George Institute for Global Health, the University of Sydney, Flinders University, University of Wollongong and Curtin University. You will be supported through a \$40,000 tax free scholarship per annum.

### **Who we are looking for**

If you have an undergraduate degree in public health, allied health, social sciences, medical/health sciences, psychology, or related field, or Honours degree, and have experience working with Aboriginal communities to conduct research and program evaluation, contact us now! You must also be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or an Australian permanent resident.

This position is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants only. UNSW has obtained an exemption under section 126 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW) to designate and recruit professional and academic positions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons only, to fulfil UNSW's goal of a representative workforce rate.

**More information**

To explore this opportunity further please send your expression of interest via a Cover Letter and CV, with any questions to Dr Rona Macniven ([r.macniven@unsw.edu.au](mailto:r.macniven@unsw.edu.au)) or Professor Rebecca Ivers ([rebecca.ivers@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rebecca.ivers@unsw.edu.au)). Applications will be reviewed as received so please apply as soon as possible.