**UQ Summer or Winter Research Project Description**

Please use this template to create a description of each research project, eligibility requirements and expected deliverables. Project details can then be uploaded to each faculty, school, institute, and centre webpage prior to the launch of the program.

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| **Project title:** | **Enhancing outcomes for young people in out-of-home care who ‘self-place’: Optimising practice and policy responses** |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | For the Winter program, students will be engaged for 4 weeks only.  For the Summer program, students will be engaged for 6 weeks only.  Hours of engagement must be between 20 – 36 hrs per week and must fall within the official program dates.  Please outline if the project will be offered on-site, remotely or through a hybrid arrangement. |
| **Description:** | This project aims to improve policy and practice responses to young people in out-of-home care who ‘self-place’ by strengthening a research and practice partnership with the Queensland Government’s statutory child protection authority and Brisbane Emergency Response and Outreach Service (BEROS). Self-placing refers to young people who, without approval, leave statutory out-of-home care (OOHC) placements (foster care and residential care) to determine their own, often temporary and insecure living arrangements such as couch surfing or sleeping rough. Self-placing is associated with increased vulnerability and poor individual outcomes for young people and socio-economic burdens on justice and health systems. Whilst there is growing awareness of the need to address self-placing in OOHC, there is a dearth of evidence regarding the phenomenon and how to address it, particularly within Australian jurisdictions.  Our study adopted a mixed-method, multi-stakeholder approach to building knowledge about the needs of young people and the factors that facilitate and inhibit our partners’ intra and inter-agency practices for supporting this cohort. We conducted interviews will young people, undertook focus groups with practitioners from Child Safety and a specialist non-government service and reviewed case files.  This is helping up to build n evidence base including knowledge of: 1) needs of young people who ‘self-place’; 2) attitudes and skills of a variety of practitioners; and 3) features of current service systems that facilitate and inhibit effective practice. We will use this new knowledge to inform staff practice resources and help our partners to prioritise areas for staff training and development. In doing so, our pilot will help address the identified lack of specialist knowledge and skills within the child protection sector for supporting this cohort (QCPCI, 2013). |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | Students will have the opportunity to:   * Contribute to the development of manuscripts, particularly in relation to undertaking a literature review to inform the background section * Participate in a scoping review of the literature and assisting in the development of this manuscript. This will include learning to use Covidence software * Learn how to use the qualitative data management software program, NVivo. You will help to code some of the practitioner focus group data. * Help to develop a poster for a conference presentation   *For example, scholars may gain skills in data collection, be involved in specific tasks, or have an opportunity to generate publications from their research. Students may also be asked to produce a report or oral presentation at the end of their project.* |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is open to students in social work, social science, psychology and other related disciplines – preferably in their 3rd or 4th year of study.  Interest in child protection, youth, transitions and policy is desirable. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Jemma Venables |
| **Further info:** | [Jemma.venables@uq.edu.au](mailto:Jemma.venables@uq.edu.au)  Students are welcome to contact me prior to application, but it is not required. |