

## 2021 NMSW Summer Project Description

<b>Project title:</b>	<b>Enhancing outcomes for young people in out-of-home care who 'self-place': Optimising practice and policy responses</b>
<b>Project duration:</b>	8 weeks.
<b>Description:</b>	<p>This pilot 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 adopts 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.</p> <p>Our pilot will build a unique 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. <b>We will use this new knowledge to inform staff practice resources</b> 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).</p>
<b>Expected outcomes and deliverables:</b>	<p>Students will learn skills in disseminating research findings to a variety of different stakeholders. Specifically, they will contribute to the development of written resources for a variety of end users including policy makers, practitioners and young people. Depending on timing, the student may also have the opportunity to contribute to the organisation of an industry forum at which research findings will be shared with a variety of stakeholders included practitioners (government &amp; non-government) and policy makers.</p> <p>The students may also gain skills in conducting a literature review.</p>

<b>Suitable for:</b>	Social work students enrolled in either the MSW Program OR years 3 or 4 of the BSW(hons) Program
<b>Primary Supervisor:</b>	Dr Jemma Venables
<b>Further info:</b>	<a href="mailto:Jemma.venables@uq.edu.au">Jemma.venables@uq.edu.au</a> Students will be encouraged to contact you to discuss the project before applying.