



MELBOURNE
SOCIAL EQUITY
INSTITUTE

Community Fellows Program

Information for Applicants 2017

Program Overview

Melbourne Social Equity Institute's Community Fellows Program aims to meet the research needs of community organisations to conduct **small research-related projects** in collaboration with university-based researchers.

Through the Community Fellows Program, we aim to support research that will lead to positive outcomes such as improved service delivery, the development of new services, improved ability to advocate effectively or the improved capacity to undertake future research projects.

Community Fellows will be able to **spend time** at the University of Melbourne to develop research skills. Projects should be relevant to the work of community-based organisations and aim to promote social equity. Projects could involve conducting a scoping report, literature review, data analysis or a small research project.

The initiative is targeted at **small to medium-sized community-based organisations** (up to 200 employees) that currently have very limited capacity to conduct research. Projects should be small, tightly focused and address an issue of relevance to the organisation. Key objectives for the Community Fellows Program are to generate quality research outcomes, meet community-based needs for research and to foster community-academic collaborations.

Each Community Fellow will be assigned an **Academic Supervisor** with relevant expertise. The Melbourne Social Equity Institute and the Academic Supervisor will work with the Fellow to design a feasible project and the supervisor will meet with the fellow 2 – 3 times over the course of the project. A **Mentor** will also be available to support the Community Fellows while they conduct and write up their research.

During their placement, Community Fellows will have opportunities to participate in a **range of academic and professional development activities**. Community Fellows will also be provided with desk space at the University, a computer to work on, a temporary email address and access to library and internet facilities.

Depending on the size of the project, a **grant of up to \$5000** will be available to the community-based organisations to compensate them for the time that Community Fellows spend working at the University. A Memorandum of Understanding will be created specifying project details, levels of financial support and expected outcomes.

A total of eight Community Fellowships are expected to be offered in 2017. Of these, we aim to support at least one Community Fellowship in each of the following areas:

- Disability and inclusion;
- The prevention of violence against women;
- Indigenous issues.

To be eligible for the Indigenous Issues stream, applicants must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent and priority will be given to Indigenous community organisations. Projects must benefit local Indigenous communities.

Who is Eligible for the Community Fellows Program?

People applying to be part of the Community Fellows should:

- be current staff members of a small to medium sized community organisation (up to 199 employees*);
- work at a community organisation that is involved in work that promotes social equity and works with marginalised communities;
- have the capacity to conduct the research project (with guidance and support from the academic supervisor and mentor);
- be able to speak and write in English;
- be able to spend time on the University of Melbourne's Parkville campus;
- be able to commit between 100 and 200 hours work on the project (depending on its complexity);
- have a demonstrated ability to develop and maintain relationships with diverse stakeholders;
- have a commitment to sharing knowledge and supporting ethical research;
- have experience in managing and completing projects.

Community Fellows **do not need** to have prior research experience, although some Community Fellows may have worked on other research projects or have some research-related qualifications.

Personnel with substantive research positions and/or PhDs will not usually be considered as suitable Community Fellows because the initiative is seeking to develop research capacities in organisations that do not currently have this in-house expertise. Organisations with in-house research and evaluation capacity

will not usually be considered for this initiative. We are also not able to fund local or state government departments or units, as we assume that these organisations have avenues to access research funding. However, we will consider projects by state schools that support or host community based projects.

** For the purposes of this program, we define a 'small to medium' sized organisation as per guidelines provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (small: 0-19 staff; medium: 20-199 staff).*

The Melbourne Social Equity Institute may also support projects with existing, formal not-for-profit partners of the University.

How Do I Apply?

If you are interested in being part of the Community Fellows Program in 2017, please complete the online form at

<http://go.unimelb.edu.au/c8n6>

You will be asked to answer the following questions:

About You

- Your Name
- Address
- Phone Number
- Email address

About Your Organisation

- Community Organisation's Name
- Applicant's role within the organisation
- Organisation's Address
- Year Incorporated
- Number of Employees
- Tell us about yourself and your work experience (max 100 words).
- Upload your resume, if available
- Briefly describe the work of your organisation (max 100 words). If relevant you can provide links to websites that contain additional information.

About Your Research Project

- Describe the issue or problem that your research project will address. (max 150 words)
- How does your project align with our research interests?
See <http://socialequity.unimelb.edu.au/#research> for more information.
- How will your organisation use the outcomes from your project? (max 100 words)
- Please confirm that your organisation is supportive of you pursuing a research project as a Community Fellow at the University of Melbourne.
- Please provide the name and contact details of the head of your organisation, or of your workplace unit.
- Does this person support your application and your possible participation in the Community Fellows Program?

We **strongly recommend** that you prepare your answers offline (in Microsoft Word or similar) and save a copy for your own records.

If you are unable to complete the online form due to accessibility issues, please contact us via social-equity@unimelb.edu.au for alternative arrangements.

If you have any questions about the Community Fellows Project or the application process please contact:

Dr Richard Williams
williams.richard@unimelb.edu.au
+61 (3) 9035 8066

Applications must be submitted by 5pm on
Monday 27 March 2017.

Partnered Fellowships

The Disability and Inclusion Community Fellowship will be presented in partnership with the **Disability Research Initiative** (DRI).

research.unimelb.edu.au/hallmark-initiatives/disability-research-initiative

The Disability Research Initiative stimulates and supports interdisciplinary research on disability across the University of Melbourne with the involvement of community partners and people with lived experience of disability.

The Prevention of Violence Against Women Community Fellowship will be presented in partnership with **Melbourne Research Alliance to End Violence Against Women & Their Children** (MAEVe).

maeve.unimelb.edu.au

MAEVe strives to make a difference to the lives of women, families and communities by addressing and preventing the problem of violence against women through interdisciplinary and intra-institutional collaboration.

The Indigenous Issues Community Fellowship will be presented in partnership with the **Indigenous Research Initiative** (IRI).

research.unimelb.edu.au/hallmark-initiatives/indigenous-research-initiative

The Indigenous Research Initiative promotes Indigenous research and Indigenous researchers from across the University of Melbourne research community.

About the Melbourne Social Equity Institute

At the Melbourne Social Equity Institute, we acknowledge an imperfect world. We realise that societies are sometimes beset by divisions of culture, economic status or creed. Chances of birth such as class, race, ability or gender often lead to marginalisation and disempowerment.

We strive to identify the origins of disadvantage and develop effective solutions through high-end research and active community engagement. Our vision is to influence government policy, public opinion and social practices through the highest quality scholarship in order to create fairer societies.

The MSEI was established in mid-2012 as part of the University's family of interdisciplinary research institutes. It operates on a 'virtual institute' model, meaning that it has a small directorate who are responsible for allocating funding, co-ordinating communities of like-minded researchers and engaging with external partners, policy-makers and the public.

The MSEI was heavily involved in the establishment of the Disability Research Initiative and the Melbourne Research Alliance to End Violence Against Women and their Children, and has worked closely with the Melbourne Refugee Studies Program since its inception.

social-equity@unimelb.edu.au

socialequity.unimelb.edu.au

Past Projects

The Community Fellows Program was first piloted in 2016 with six fellowships offered in total:

A trauma informed approach to education

Organisation: Carlton Primary School

Community Fellow: Bec Harris

Academic Supervisor: Greg Donoghue (Melbourne Graduate School of Education)

Project purpose: To produce a collection of resource material relevant to trauma informed education in Australia, and an explanation of how this is enacted at Carlton Primary School. This is intended for school staff, families, and for other schools.

Final project report on research into issues of migrant employment

Organisation: Western Community Legal Centre

Community Fellow: Catherine Hemingway

Academic Supervisor: Joo-Cheong Tham (Melbourne Law School)

Project purpose: To produce a comprehensive report that documents the working experiences of newly arrived and refugee communities in the West, analyse data from WCLC's pilot programs and make recommendations for policy and legal reform.

Skills For Life Community Program review

Organisation: Carlton Football Community Fund

Community Fellow: Shawn Wilkey

Academic Supervisor: Karen Block (Melbourne School of Population and Global Health)

Project purpose: The purpose was to undertake a review of the design of the Skills for Life Program to understand if there is a sound methodology in place that aligns program content with the intended impact. Anecdotal evidence from participants indicates that the program has enormous benefits for young people. However, a rigorous evaluation of the program design with recommendations as to how best achieve the desired impact is needed.

Performing Arts Programs in Juvenile Justice in Victoria 2005- 2015: Mapping Policy, Research and Programs

Organisation: ILBIJERRI Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Theatre Company

Community Fellow: Kamarra Bell-Wykes

Academic Supervisor: Sophie Rudolph (Melbourne Graduate School of Education)

Project purpose: The intended outcomes are: to investigate the types of research and policies that have been developed in relation to arts programs in Victorian

prisons over the past decade, with a focus on juvenile justice and the performing arts; to investigate arts programs that have been conducted in Victorian prisons over the past decade, with a focus on juvenile justice and the performing arts; to establish of a toolbox of arts evaluation techniques for effectively evaluating developmental arts programs; and to develop the skills of Ilbijerri to undertake program evaluation, and to understand the values and limitations of research .

Evaluation framework for Space2b, a design-based social enterprise for unemployed women who are refugees or asylum-seekers

Organisation: Space2b

Community Fellows: Aila Joodi and Ondine Spitzer

Academic Supervisor: Ben Neville (Melbourne Business School) and Richard Williams (Melbourne School of Population and Global Health)

Project purpose: Space2b is conducting a mentoring program with 15 refugees and asylum seekers in the Dandenong area. This program, Ready to Fly began in February 2016 and will conclude at the end of October 2016. This project aims to develop the participants' creative, business and language skills and increase connections and confidence to establish a small business.

The intended outcome of the project is an evaluation framework for Ready to Fly. It will involve developing documentation processes and relevant impact measures to ensure that the evaluation is valid, and represents the perspectives and experiences of the refugee and asylum seeker participants, mentors and program facilitators. Good quality evaluation is important both for program improvement and to support funding applications.

Identifying Employment Barriers for Tertiary-educated Muslim Australian Women

Organisation: Women's Health West

Community Fellow: Susan Timmins

Academic Supervisor: Richard Williams (Melbourne School of Population and Global Health)

Project purpose: The aim of the project is to investigate barriers to employment for tertiary-educated Muslim Australian women in the western metropolitan region of Melbourne. It will inform Women's Health West in the development and provision of their services and about the particular needs of this group.