Position Title

Putting health in mind
1. ABOUT THE BLACK DOG INSTITUTE

Founded in 2002, The Black Dog Institute is a not-for-profit Medical Research Institute and a global leader in translational mental health research. We harness the latest technology and other tools to quickly turn our world-class research findings into clinical services education and e-health products that improve the lives of people with mental illness and the wider community. Our areas of strength include suicide prevention, e-mental health, workplace mental health, novel treatments and prevention in young people.

Our mission is to enable mentally healthier lives through innovations in science, medicine, education, public policy and knowledge translation.

Our values are a key part of our integrated approach and are a critical component of our organisational culture as they guide our decisions and behaviours. Institute staff and management have created and adopted the values of:

Respect – Compassion – Excellence – Collaboration – Innovation

The Black Dog Institute is proud to offer a dynamic working environment for our staff. We are invested in maintaining a positive workplace culture which values people and their wellbeing. We offer a varied wellbeing program tailored to staff needs and provide opportunities to attend learning and development seminars, engage in health and fitness activities as well as social events. We also offer flexibility in working hours and promote a healthy work life balance.
2. JOB PURPOSE

The purpose of this position is to support the evaluation and implementation of the LifeSpan suicide prevention trial. LifeSpan is an evidence-based approach to integrated suicide prevention. It combines nine strategies that have strong evidence for suicide prevention into one community-led approach incorporating health, education, business and the community.

LifeSpan aims to build a safety net for the community by connecting and coordinating new and existing interventions and programs and building the capacity of the community to better support people facing a suicide crisis.

In December 2015, Black Dog Institute received an independent philanthropic grant from the Paul Ramsay Foundation to deliver LifeSpan in four sites in NSW. In 2018, ACT Health commissioned the Institute to deliver LifeSpan in the ACT.

The Postdoctoral Research Fellow will primarily work supporting the implementation of the LifeSpan framework in our Australian Capital Territory trial site (role based in Sydney, however) and will be responsible for contributing to the implementation and research evaluation of a range of health and community-based suicide prevention strategies, including evidence-based programs for GPs and other health professionals, monitoring of media reporting of suicide incidents to ensure compliance with evidence-based guidelines, and surveys of the community about their literacy of suicide prevention.

This position will also provide support across other areas of the trial as required, including providing rapid reviews of advances in suicide prevention, developing dissemination materials for a range of stakeholders, conducting workshops and/or talks for communities in which LifeSpan is being trialled, and supporting the monitoring and improvement of implementation strategies related to the LifeSpan interventions.

The role of Postdoctoral Research Fellow reports to the Deputy Director for LifeSpan and has no direct reports currently, although there may be potential for direct reports in the future.

3. DUTIES

Specific duties for this role include:

- Provide research expertise and capacity to support the implementation and evaluation of LifeSpan, including focus groups with stakeholders and online surveys.
- Conduct research under limited supervision as a member of a team, and independently, and ensure all research is conducted to methodological and ethical standards.
- Collaborate effectively and maintain strong relationships with relevant researchers within the Institute, with site coordinators, other stakeholders, and policy makers.
- Guide the work of research assistants and undergraduate students; actively provide guidance on quantitative and qualitative research methods.
• Undertake research analysis, produce/contribute to peer-reviewed research and conference papers, and contribute to other dissemination strategies.
• Attend meetings (onsite and offsite) associated with the research project or work of the Institute and/or provide membership of a limited number of committees.
• Be involved in professional activities including, subject to availability of funds, attendance at conferences and seminars in the field of expertise.
• Perform other duties as requested by the supervisor.
• Ensure self and all staff comply with all WHS legislation WHS Policy and Procedures.
• Report any WHS hazards and significant issues to Head of Operations, People & Culture or delegate.
• Work in a safe manner, applying a duty of care.

4. SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential Criteria
1. PhD in the area of psychology, psychiatry, public health, implementation science, or a related discipline.
2. Demonstrated experience in leading or working on trial-based research, and a sound understanding of trial processes – including ethics requirements.
3. Demonstrated ability to establish strong collaborative relationships and to liaise effectively with all levels of staff, students, management, collaborators and members of the public.
4. Proven experience in data collection methods, including survey-based research, interviews, and/or focus groups.
5. Proficient skills with data management and data analysis, and experience with software such as SPSS, R, or other.
6. A track record in publishing quantitative and/or qualitative scientific research papers in a relevant area or field.
7. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
8. Demonstrated ability to work well independently under minimal supervision.
9. Knowledge of health and safety responsibilities and commitment to attending relevant health and safety training.

Desirable
1. Implementation science qualifications and/or experience.
I acknowledge as the holder of this position, that I agree to display the organisational values and behaviours and work in accordance with the key responsibilities of the role detailed in this position description.

Name:
Signature:
Date:

Note: A copy of this signed acceptance is to be placed on employee’s personnel record and a copy provided to employee