

PHD SCHOLARSHIP – CHALLENGES IN HEALTH CARE FOR VICTORIAN FARM COMMUNITIES

National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH), School of Medicine

A PhD scholarship is available in Deakin University's School of Medicine. The PhD student, under the guidance of the Chief Investigator, will initiate and conduct research on the topic of '*Exploring challenges in health care including gender difference among Victorian farm communities*' led by Associate Professor Susan Brumby.

The successful applicant will be based at the National Centre for Farmer Health, Hamilton, Victoria and may need to travel locally in Hamilton to collect data from the study participants.

The PhD student should have a full Victorian driving license.

Research Topic

Exploring challenges in health care including gender difference among Victorian farm communities.

Aim of the Project

Rural Australians face various challenges when wanting to receive optimum care to manage their health problems. Besides different patterns of health care seeking behaviors by community members, other factors relate to healthcare provision and systems limitations when determining optimal care- such as inconsistent and arbitrary geographic locations, availability of specialists, ambulance, out of pocket expenditure, and policies of service provision by metropolitan, state and regional health care settings. Farmers, who are already disadvantaged by being in rural settings, also experience inferior physical and mental health compared to other rural inhabitants.

This study will examine the challenges of receiving health care among the farm communities in Western Victoria specifically focusing on basic health services (including prevention), maternity, hospital in home provision and service from NGO's. The study will also examine any gender difference in receiving care and how the rural communities may be influenced to accept sub-optimum care.

Value and benefits

A stipend of \$26,288 per annum tax exempt for 3 years.

Eligibility criteria

- Applicants must meet Deakin's PhD entry requirements, be enrolling full-time and hold an Honours degree (First Class) or a Master's degree with a substantial research component in a related field. Please refer to the [entry pathways](#) to higher degrees by research for further information.
- Applications are open to Australian/New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents.

- The PhD student should have a full Victorian driving license.
- The selected PhD student will be based at Hamilton and may need to travel locally in Hamilton to collect data from the study participants

How to apply

Please refer to the [Apply for a research degree](#) webpage for application information.

Further information

If you wish to discuss your research interests and project proposal before applying, please contact Clinical Associate Professor Susan Brumby via [email](#), phone at (03)5551 8533 or Dr. Muhammad Aziz Rahman via [email](#), phone at (03)5247 9532.