

Position Description

Project Clinician - Statewide Paediatrics

Position title:	Project Clinician (Medical Officer), Statewide Paediatrics Project (0.5FTE, negotiable)
Salary range:	Dependent on qualifications and experience
Direct Reports:	None

Melbourne Genomics Health Alliance

Genomic medicine – healthcare informed by greater knowledge of our DNA – is advancing rapidly. Technology now enables us to ‘read’ our DNA and use this information to change patient outcomes, improve treatment and save lives. But genomic medicine is not yet an ongoing part of everyday medical care.

Melbourne Genomics Health Alliance has a transformative vision: to generate the widespread, complex change necessary to deliver genomics for the benefit of patients. Melbourne Genomics' work drives equitable and effective translation of genomics into the Victorian health system.

Established in 2013, Melbourne Genomics is a collaboration of 10 leading hospitals, research and academic organisations, supported by the Victorian Government. The Alliance members recognise that collective vision and collaborative effort are essential to drive change at the vanguard of genomic medicine, and to bridge the gap between research innovation and healthcare reality.

The members of Melbourne Genomics Health Alliance are:

- The Royal Melbourne Hospital
- The Royal Children’s Hospital
- The University of Melbourne
- Walter and Eliza Hall Institute (WEHI) the host organisation
- Murdoch Children’s Research Institute
- CSIRO
- Australian Genome Research Facility (AGRF)
- Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
- Austin Health
- Monash Health

To achieve its vision, the Alliance will began a final four-year program of work in 2021 to sustainably embed genomic medicine into the Victorian health system. The new work program will include activities to embed genomics into clinical practice, to enable and develop the genomics workforce and to facilitate genomic information management.

Position Overview

The Project Clinician (Medical Officer), Statewide Paediatrics Project will contribute to the design, implementation and evaluation of strategies to achieve successful uptake of genomics within the Victorian health service.

The cost of genomic testing has been identified as a barrier to increased use in clinical decision-making. A new MBS item number has been issued to address this in children under 10 with specific characteristics that indicate potential genomic abnormalities, however uptake has been very slow. The process of ordering the test is complex, involving strict eligibility criteria, requirement for prior genetic testing, approval from a geneticist, different ordering processes at laboratories, and lengthy turnaround times. The Statewide Paediatrics Project aims to develop interventions to enhance the use of the new MBS item and then implement and evaluate these strategies across Victoria. This will involve engaging with paediatricians, parents, clinical geneticists and laboratory staff.

This project will be completed by end of 2024. The host organisation for the Alliance is the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute (WEHI). The successful candidate will be engaged by Melbourne Genomics through a secondment agreement between the candidates employing organisation and WEHI.

Key Accountabilities

Working alongside the Implementation Lead and project team, the Project Clinician will

- Review relevant sources of evidence to inform project decisions
- Participate in a codesign process to develop interventions, implementation strategies and evaluation plans
- Engage with stakeholders in implementation and evaluation activities
- Prepare reports, academic publications and presentations

Selection Criteria

Essential

- Medical qualifications in paediatrics at fellow or consultant level
- Demonstrated understanding of research principles and evidence-based processes
- Demonstrated experience in engaging with individuals and stakeholder groups
- Demonstrated awareness of the principles of confidentiality, privacy and information handling
- Demonstrated experience in writing reports and academic publications

Desirable

- Demonstrated experience in evidence synthesis including scoping and rapid reviews
- Demonstrated understanding and experience in the application of knowledge translation and implementation science theories and frameworks to achieve change
- Understanding of the application of genomics in clinical practice

Conditions of Employment

- Working with Children & National Police Clearance (if appointed) in compliance with the Victorian Governments Child Safety Standards
- The right to reside and work in Australia and you meeting any applicable visa conditions

A safe and sustainable workplace

Melbourne Genomics and WEHI are committed to developing a safe and sustainable workplace with rigorous risk, compliance and governance systems. As an employee you are expected to:

- Comply with Institute policies, plans and procedures.
- Take reasonable care of your own safety and the safety of others including using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and safety devices appropriately.
- Report all risks, hazards, incidents/injuries and near misses.
- Attend and complete training programs as documented in individual training needs matrices, within proposed time frame.
- To the extent of your role responsibilities and obligations proactively contribute to a safe and sustainable workplace.