

First Nations Childhood Cancer Research Team – Student Opportunities

We are a small, welcoming research group focussed on closing the gap in outcomes for First Nations kids with cancer. Our team is led by Kamilaroi scientist Dr Jessica Buck, and we are a majority First Nations team. We are recruiting students at all levels and all backgrounds to be a part of our research team. Top-up scholarships are available to excellent students. We offer flexibility with enrolment dates and full-time or part time study.

Very little is currently known about cancer in First Nations children. Research has shown that First Nations children have poorer survival outcomes, but the reasons why are not known. Our team aims to understand the genetic, biological and socio-cultural factors behind these outcomes, and work towards improving them. Projects can be designed to suit your experience and interests. No previous experience in research or knowledge of cancer biology is required.

For an honours, masters or PhD student interested in qualitative, community-based research or, a project is available which involves developing workshops and surveys to understand the Indigenous community's attitudes and opinions around childhood cancer research, including laboratory-based cancer research, genomics and precision medicine.

For an honours, masters or PhD student interested in health promotion, a project is available to develop resources to help communities understand childhood cancer and cancer research concepts. This could include developing resources to aid in community understanding of laboratory research and to boost health literacy.

For PhD students with an interest in bioinformatics, genomics or cancer biology, a project could be designed around understanding the genomics of cancer and long-term side effects in Indigenous children.

For PhD students with an interest in laboratory cancer research, a project could be designed to understand the effects of traditional and bush medicines on cancer growth, and potential interactions with chemotherapy drugs.

Students with other interests in the First Nations Childhood Cancer Research field are encouraged to contact Jessica Buck to discuss their interests and potential opportunities – Jessica.buck@thekids.org.au