



Healing the Past by Nurturing the Future Research Scholarship

An exciting PhD scholarship opportunity to undertake research in an NHMRC and Lowitja Institute-funded project - Healing the Past by Nurturing the Future: learning to identify and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents who have experienced complex childhood trauma, during pregnancy and the early years after birth.

This exciting PhD scholarship, established by La Trobe University in partnership with the *Healing the Past by Nurturing the Future Project*, will be awarded to an outstanding applicant who is interested in exploring how perinatal services can support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents who have experienced complex childhood trauma.

Applicants should have a high level of achievement, including a first class honours degree or equivalent. As an applicant you should have an interest in the social and emotional wellbeing of families and an understanding of the complexity of issues surrounding trauma among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Your project will be conducted within a broad contextual framework with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across three Australian jurisdictions (North Territory, South Australia and Victoria).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply. Alternate pathways (e.g. through Ma level programs) can be considered.

Benefits of the scholarship

Benefits of the scholarship include:

- a La Trobe Research Scholarship for three years, with a value of \$27,082 per annum, to support your living costs [2018 rate]
- opportunities to work with a multidisciplinary team of outstanding researchers across several institutions, and have access to a suite of professional development programs

How to apply

If you wish to apply for a *Healing the Past by Nurturing the Future Project* Scholarship, follow these steps:

- Email the project team to discuss the process and ask for project information
c.chamberlain@latrobe.edu.au
- Apply for candidature at:
latrobe.edu.au/research/future

- to identify a potential supervisor, submit an enquiry using our online enquiry system, indicating that you wish to be considered for a *Healing the Past by Nurturing the Future Project* Scholarship. We will direct this to the appropriate La Trobe staff member
- when you have received in-principle agreement for supervision, complete and submit your application by 12th March 2018 for admission into La Trobe's PhD program, indicating you wish to be considered for a *Healing the Past by Nurturing the Future Project* Scholarship.

The University will carefully review your application and consider you for a *Healing the Past by Nurturing the Future Project* Scholarship. You will be advised of an outcome in April 2018.

Closing date

Applications close 12 March 2018.

Contact us

If you require further information, please contact:

La Trobe Graduate Research School

grs@latrobe.edu.au or c.chamberlain@latrobe.edu.au

Supplementary information

The *Healing the past by Nurturing the Future Project* aims to develop perinatal (pregnancy to two years after birth) strategies for identifying and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents who have experienced complex trauma in their own childhoods.

Complex trauma can have profound and ongoing impacts on development and physical, social and emotional wellbeing. The long-lasting relational effects may be triggered during parenthood, causing emotional distress and impeding the capacity of parents to nurture their children, leading to intergenerational transmission of trauma. Conversely, growing evidence shows that the transition to parenthood offers a unique life-course opportunity for healing and preventing intergenerational transmission, even after severe trauma.

Yet, despite these opportunities for healing, particularly during frequent scheduled contacts with health care providers; and the risk of triggering due to the intimate nature of perinatal care - there are currently no systematic perinatal strategies for identifying and supporting parents who have experienced complex trauma themselves.

This project will begin to address this critical gap.