

Associate Professor (Social Work)

POSITION NUMBER	959260
COLLEGE / DEPARTMENT	Allied Health Program, College of Sport, Health, and Engineering
LOCATION/CAMPUS	The position is primarily located at the Footscray Park Campus of the University with some time Sunshine campus of Western Health.
CLASSIFICATION	Teaching and Research Academic – Level D

OVERALL PURPOSE

The overall purpose of this very exciting position of Associate Professor of Social work position is to innovate and provide leadership in research and the scholarship of teaching and learning.

It comprises two aspects: Sixty percent (0.6EFT) of the role is exclusively within the College of Sport, Health and Engineering in the Allied Health Program in the discipline of social work. Forty percent (0.4EFT) of the role comprises a jointly funded position with Western Health. In this role the incumbent will lead research and scholarly activities and projects between Victoria University and Western Health.

People who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders are particularly encouraged to apply for this role and can seek support or assistance from the Director of the University's Moondani Balluk Indigenous Academic Unit.

The joint research aspect of the role: The Associate Professor in Social Work will lead and advance the undertaking of high quality clinical social work research aimed at benefiting the health and well-being of the Western Health community. The appointee will be jointly situated to enhance the collaborative social work and allied health research capability between Western Health and Victoria University with a focus on evidence-based practice developments, service improvement initiatives, primary research and research capacity building. The Associate Professor will provide academic leadership in research that links to the major research strengths of social work within the University. The appointee will support the strategic directions of Western Health and the University within relevant academic and professional communities in Australia and internationally.

The University exclusive aspect of the role: The role will include active participation in decisions relating to teaching and learning, scholarship, and research within the discipline of social work and will provide leadership in conjunction with the Head of the discipline. The Associate Professor will be expected to represent the social work team in external fora where appropriate. The successful incumbent will have obtained recognition as an authority in the discipline, will have achieved distinction at least at the national level in social work. They will provide leadership in developing the research and teaching profile of social work at Victoria University both internally and externally with the social work community by actively engaging with academics, governments, industry and development partners within Australia and internationally.

The successful incumbent will be someone with energy who is innovative, progressive and collaborative in the way they work. They will be an excellent communicator who collaborates well with others across the College and the University.

The Associate Professor will ensure the strength of social work in the University by leading and mentoring social work staff in the College of Sport, Health and Engineering in collaboration with the Head of the discipline. The incumbent will also provide strong research leadership and mentorship of the social work staff. They will be required to identify the strengths of social work at Victoria University and then work with the staff and research leaders in the University to shape and strengthen the research focus of social work at Victoria University. The successful incumbent will seek external competitive grants, publish high quality research, and undertake postgraduate supervision.

virtual ambulatory clinics. Our specialised services include oncology, renal, women's health including maternity, chronic disease, geriatrics, and cardiology.

Employing nearly 9000 staff, Western Health has a strong philosophy of working with its local community to deliver excellence in patient care.

At Western Health, we are committed to high quality, safe and person centred patient care. The Western Health framework for Quality, Safety and Patient Experience describes a vision for 'Best Care' for all Western Health patients and sets out the behaviours, strategies and organisational systems needed to achieve this vision.

Allied Health provides a range of evidence-based, client centred, specialist services at Western Health, across the care continuum, from admission within the emergency department through to discharge in the community. These services work across the spectrum of life, from neonates to the elderly. The predominant focus of Allied Health is the return and optimisation of an individual's function, and wellbeing, from both physical and psycho-social perspectives. Activity is aligned with Western Health's Best Care Model and CARES values. Allied Health involvement is pivotal to efficient and effective multidisciplinary team functions, discharge planning and patient centred care. Western Health employs a range of Allied Health disciplines, each with unique specialist tertiary training and skills, including:

- Audiology
- Clinical Psychology
- Exercise Physiology
- Language Services
- Neuropsychology
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Occupational Therapy
- Spiritual Care
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry
- Social Work
- Speech Pathology

MAJOR CHALLENGES / FREEDOM TO ACT

This position reports to and receives broad direction from the Head of Allied Health and operates within the University policies, procedures and guidelines.

This role sits within the Allied Health Program within the College of Sport, Health, and Engineering. The mission of the Allied Health program at Victoria University is to enhance health and quality of life through discovery, dissemination, and application of evidence-based knowledge regarding relevant health disciplines. This mission will be achieved through empowering students from diverse countries and cultures, socioeconomic and educational backgrounds, to be successful lifelong learners, grow their skills and capabilities for the changing world of work. Students will grow to be confident, creative, ethical, and respectful, local and global citizens. The operations of the social work course and this position are currently located at the Footscray Park campus of the University and the role of the joint appointment is located at the Sunshine campus of Western Health though this position may be relocated to any other existing or future University work location. It is expected that staff travel to various campuses for meetings, teaching classes and other required activities as necessary.

Victoria University is a progressive and rapidly developing organisation operating in a local and international context. An increasingly competitive research sector, combined with the effects of changing domestic and international markets in higher education, will require the successful applicant to be creative, resourceful, and culturally sensitive. A key challenge for the incumbent will be to promote excellence in teaching and learning, scholarship, and research in undergraduate and graduate programs in an area relevant to nursing. The appointee will also be expected to contribute to the development of strong relationships that link the area with relevant external professional, industrial, and government organisations.

MAJOR DUTIES PERFORMED

In performing the following duties the incumbent is required to comply with quality assurance policies and procedures, and other relevant legislative requirements applicable to the University and Western Health:

The major duties performed are:

1. Lead research productivity through building research capacity, attract research funding and produce high quality research outputs
2. Undertake academic leadership and contribute to the development, organisation and delivery of teaching in social work including continuing education programs for social work at VU and Allied Health at Western Health
3. Take a leadership role in collaboration with other staff in the discipline in the development, implementation and evaluation of the social work curriculum, particularly with respect to accreditation of course.
4. Contribute to the strategic directions of the College of Sport, Health and Engineering and the role of social work within it.
5. Provide a functional link between the University and Western Health, particularly in relation to research concerning Allied Health and innovation in Allied Health practice.
6. Undertake research supervision of higher degree by research students according to expertise and interests.
7. Contribute to research at VU's Institute of Health, Exercise and Sport (IHES).
8. Represent the Social Work Department of Western Health and The Discipline of Social Work at Victoria University on relevant Western Health, University and external committees.
9. Identify, assess, prioritise and control risks to the health and safety of staff, students, visitors and contractors to the environment arising from the operation of the area under their responsibility, and ensure that a safe system of work is developed and followed through appropriate training, supervision and monitoring in line with the annual OH&S Plan. Comply with Western Health policies and procedures and confidentiality obligations with regard to patients, consumers and colleagues and act in accordance with the code of conduct.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

1. Doctoral qualification in an area relevant to social work (or equivalence) and eligible for membership to the AASW.
2. Recognition as an authority in social work with a national and/or international profile in social work.
3. Demonstrated capacity to lead, mentor, supervise and build research capacity.
4. Demonstrated track record in securing external funding from government, industry and/or community organisations to support research, education and/or consultancy projects.
5. A track record of publications in quality peer-reviewed journals.

6. Demonstrated capacity to effectively manage collaborative research and/ or teaching and learning relationships with external partners.
7. Experience and demonstrable excellence in the development, teaching and coordination of innovative academic programs in the higher education sector.
8. Demonstrated capacity to successfully supervise postgraduate research students.
9. Evidence of collaborations and a collaborative approach to learning and teaching and/or research
10. Evidence of the ability to initiate and nurture networks and collaborations between academia, industry, government and community.
11. Hold, or eligible for, a Working with Children Check Card and all other mandatory requirements, including full COVID-19 vaccination.
12. Awareness of OHS responsibilities and willingness to attend OHS training as required.

Desirable

1. Experience in leading teams of social work academic staff.
2. Experience in development and accreditation processes for social work courses.
3. Experience in developing learning environments and teaching in online and blended learning formats.

VU seeks to attract a diverse workforce regardless of gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability and age. Applicants are encouraged from all sectors of the community, and we strongly encourage applications from the First Nations community.