

PhD opportunity – public health obesity prevention

An exciting opportunity exists to undertake a PhD within an NHMRC funded 'Ideas' project. The candidate will work within the Global Obesity Centre (GLOBE), a WHO Collaborating Centre for Obesity Prevention, within the Institute for Health Transformation at Deakin University.

The project aims to synthesise more than two decades of knowledge and evaluation in large-scale programs to prevent childhood obesity, in order to identify the drivers of success in these interventions, and understand the full breadth of their impacts (social, health and economic). Early prevention of unhealthy weight gain is urgently needed to reduce the unacceptably high burden on children, families, society and the economy. This project will uniquely combine up to 20 community-based obesity prevention interventions from around the world to identify what combinations of factors drive the largest reductions in standardised body mass index, and understand the full breadth of intervention impacts. The findings from this project will allow us to develop guidance to support effective, equitable and efficient community-based obesity prevention, optimised to the unique characteristics of diverse communities.

The specific topics of interest for this project may include:

- Understanding the interactions of community characteristics and intervention strategies that lead to varying levels of intervention effectiveness
- Identifying ways that interventions can be optimised to community capacity and characteristics to maximise potential positive impacts
- Understanding the differential impacts of community-based obesity prevention programs for disadvantaged populations, and identifying strategies to promote equitable outcomes

The ideal applicant for this project would have a background in public health and epidemiology, with strengths in quantitative analysis.

Supervisors

Applications are invited to work with Dr Melanie Nichols and A/Prof Kathryn Backholer, Deakin University, Geelong, Australia.

Pre-requisites

Applicants will have previous studies in a relevant discipline, such as epidemiology, public health or biostatistics. Interested students must be eligible for enrolment in a PhD program at Deakin University and eligible to apply for an Australian Postgraduate Award or equivalent. Applicants must meet Deakin's PhD entry requirements. Please refer to the [entry pathways](#) to higher degrees by research for further information. We will work with suitably qualified applicants to apply for scholarship funding.

For more information

Contact Dr Melanie Nichols – melanie.nichols@deakin.edu.au