

Institute for Social Science Research - PhD Student Project

ISSR Impact Area: Health

Title: *Developing assets-based, peer-led interventions to improve health and wellbeing among marginalised young people*

Supervisor/s: [Professor Lisa McDaid](#)

Funding:

Student Scholarship required, top-up funding may be available to suitable candidate

Project description:

The role of peers and social networks is particularly influential during adolescence and there is much research drawing on peer influence to improve health. Yet many marginalised young people continue to report significant challenges to their health and wellbeing. At the same time, there is growing interest in salutogenic, strengths or asset-based approaches to health improvement, but evidence of their effectiveness is still limited.

This PhD project will first seek to conduct a systematic review of the evidence for peer led, salutogenic health interventions among marginalised young people. Marginalised groups could include those who are socio-economically disadvantaged, refugees, those who have experienced out of home care or homelessness, LGBTQ+ young people and/or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (the final focus of the PhD will be agreed between the successful student and supervisor). The project will then use a community participative approach with young people, healthcare practitioners, and other stakeholders to develop and refine an asset-based model of health improvement. It will lay the foundation for work to test out the best possible interventions in this area and the student will gain experience in conducting systematic evidence reviews, qualitative research and community participative research methods.

The candidate:

We are seeking a candidate who has an excellent academic record and a particular interest and commitment in conducting high quality research to improve health. A social science background is desirable, but not essential.

Achievable Outcomes:

- A PhD from The University of Queensland in a relevant field
- Experience working within an interdisciplinary team of researchers
- Experience with oral/written presentations at national/international conferences
- Scientific papers in high impact research journals