

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO
Ōtākou Whakaihū Waka

JOB DESCRIPTION

ROLE TITLE:	Science Lead (Research Fellow) 0.5 to 1.0 FTE Fixed term 12 months
DEPARTMENT:	Public Health Communication Centre (PHCC), Department of Public Health
SCHOOL / DIVISION:	University of Otago, Wellington
REPORTS TO:	Director, Public Health Communication Centre
DIRECT REPORTS (FTE):	0
INDIRECT REPORTS (FTE)	0

1. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

The purpose of the Public Health Communication Centre (PHCC) is to effectively communicate public health research evidence in order to protect and improve the health, well-being, and equity of the people of Aotearoa New Zealand and the health of the environment in which we live.

The PHCC is expanding its activities to identify, investigate, and draw public attention to the commercial determinants of health, including ways in which commercial interests and undue influence may adversely affect public health.

The Science Lead will be responsible for researching, writing and wider communication of PHCC outputs, particularly the Public Health Expert Briefing as well as editorial support for other authors. The role is responsible for strengthening links between public health research, policy and public communication in Aotearoa New Zealand, with a particular focus on the commercial determinants of health

The Science Lead will work closely with a highly collaborative team including centre Directors, Senior Science Lead, Communications Lead and wider PHCC team, as well as external researchers, policymakers and sector stakeholders (such as media).

2. ACCOUNTABILITIES:

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Lead and contribute to the development of Briefing articles on commercial determinants of health and other public health issues.
- Conduct background research for Briefing articles, particularly in the domain of understanding the activities of commercial interests of relevance to public health (eg, via analysis of submissions to government, review of official records, media discourse analysis and other investigation methods).
- Identify and work with sector experts to refine methods for investigating and documenting the operation of commercial determinants of health.
- Contribute to strategic planning discussions relating to the direction, priorities and operating model of the PHCC.

- Monitor the public health research, policy and practice landscape to maintain awareness of expertise across the sector.
- Meet with stakeholders to introduce the PHCC, provide updates on its work, and identify opportunities for collaboration.
- Identify, approach and liaise with potential authors from across the public health and research community.
- Progress the PHCC Briefings from commissioning through to publication, ensuring they meet set structural and formatting requirements.
- Arrange internal review of Briefing drafts through the Editorial Board and, where appropriate, provide internal review directly.
- Interpret engagement and impact data to inform editorial, dissemination and strategic decisions.
- Prepare or contribute to submissions on relevant government bills and discussion papers in order to achieve better health outcomes for all citizens.
- Convene and deliver PHCC webinars and workshops.
- Provide back-up support to the Communications Lead on media engagement, including drafting media releases and liaising with journalists as required.

3. KEY RELATIONSHIPS:

Internal

- (Co) Directors of the PHCC
- Other Science Leads
- Communications Lead
- Digital media specialist
- Centre Manager
- Department of Public Health Researchers and Professional Staff
- Other key staff in UOW, (Pōneke campus)

External

- Collaborating public health researchers from other universities
- Collaborating organisations, such as the Science Media Centre
- Key Government agencies, ministries, and departments, notably health and environment
- Key staff at local public health units and local authorities
- Media organisations and journalists
- Other end users of communication outputs, including key communities and populations

4. QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE:

Essential

- University post-graduate degree in one of the following domains: public health, public policy, law, economics, environmental science, or allied discipline
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills with a history of research publications/science writing and other dissemination
- Interest in regularly engaging with the news media
- High level of initiative
- Ability to work effectively in a multidisciplinary team
- A good understanding of and commitment to the principles of te Tiriti o Waitangi and to equal opportunity.
- A practical understanding of tikanga Māori
- A commitment to culturally safe and mana enhancing practice

Preferred

- Knowledge of mātauranga Māori in relation to public health. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from candidates with knowledge of mātauranga Māori.
- Experience with public health/environmental science research, including a good understanding of quantitative data
- Familiarity with the health system and media environment in Aotearoa New Zealand

5. TECHNICAL SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE:

Essential

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Excellent organisational and project management skills

Preferred

- Data presentation and visualisation
- Some understanding of social media
- Skills with teaching and training

6. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Potentially a flexible approach to working hours (depending on FTE)
- Limited travel may be required

7. DIRECT BUDGET ACCOUNTABILITY:

Nil

8. EQUITY AND DIVERSITY:

Act in a manner consistent with the University's commitment to anti-racism and the co-creation of accessible, safe, respectful, and welcoming environments where all students and staff are supported to achieve their full potential.

9. MĀORI STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:

Act in a manner consistent with the principles and implications, as well as the University's commitment to the Treaty as articulated in the Māori Strategic Framework.

10. PACIFIC STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:

Act in a manner consistent with the strategies and goals contained in the University's Pacific Strategic Framework, role-modelling and promoting Pacific values, equity and diversity principles and cultural safety practices.

11. HEALTH & SAFETY:

Act and work in a manner compliant with current health and safety at work legislation and University procedures, frameworks and guidelines. Role model safe behaviour and practices, share the responsibility to prevent harm and contribute to a safe campus and work environment, including raising workplace health and safety concerns for self, students, visitors and other staff.

12. SUSTAINABILITY:

Act in a manner consistent with the University's sustainability commitments; role-modelling sustainable practices, with a particular emphasis on minimising the environmental impact of day-to-day activities.